

THE GATEWAY

volume XCIV number 34 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.gateway.ualberta.ca ♦ tuesday, 15 february, 2005



99 IN A ROW—AND COUNTING The Pandas hockey team swept the UBC Thunderbirds this weekend at Clare Drake Arena to stretch their remarkable unbeaten streak—the longest in CIS history in any sport—to 99 games. On Friday, when the three-time defending national champions open the Canada West playoffs at home against the Lethbridge Pronghorns, they'll try to make it an even 100. Turn to page 17 for the full story.

JAMES LEUNG

Student health plan goes to vote

NICOLE TOMLINSON
News Writer

According to the results of a January survey, the majority of U of A students support the Students' Union's proposed healthcare plan.

From 18 to 23 January, the SU and proposed health-plan provider Studentcare.net/works polled students in person and through the SU website to determine whether the proposal was of interest.

The results indicated that 81 per cent of the 476 respondents support the proposed SU health plan for a fee of \$100 to \$120 annually.

"We asked students questions like, 'Do you currently have coverage?' and, 'Would you like this project to go through?'" explained Duncan Taylor, SU vice-president (student life).

The results found that only 56 per cent of students questioned have private healthcare coverage.

Judging from the student feedback, it's time for U of A students to have a health plan, said Taylor.

"Students have family and friends who come from Grant MacEwan and other smaller schools than the U of A [that] have this sort of plan," he said.

The survey asked students to rank what were the most important services for a student health plan to provide.

PLEASE SEE HEALTHPLAN ♦ PAGE 2

SU auditors concerned about Powerplant, RATT success

JAMES STORRIE
News Writer

While the financial health of RATT and the Powerplant has improved since last year's record lows, the SU auditing committee is expressing concern that profits are falling far short of the projected budgets.

SU Vice-President (Operations and Finance) Alvin Law, who ran on a platform of revitalizing campus bars, characterized the Powerplant's performance as "significantly better" than last year, an improvement he largely attributed to the revitalization plans.

"We spent the summer reworking much of how the campus bars ran and unveiled it all last August and September," he explained.

"[But the bar revitalization plans] haven't had as big an impact as we would have liked," he admitted.

RATT and the Powerplant posted markedly low profits last year, as a result of many problems.

"[There was] a culmination of factors that worsened over time, including poor attendance, poor reputation and extremely low prices," said Law.

"[But the bar revitalization plans] haven't had as big an impact as we would have liked."

ALVIN LAW,
SU VICE-PRESIDENT
(OPERATIONS AND FINANCE)

Business Counsellor Steve Smith, who serves on the auditing committee responsible for the campus bars, disagreed with Law's positive assessment.

"The auditing committee has been very concerned this year that [the revitalization effort] hasn't been working at all," explained Smith.

PLEASE SEE AUDIT ♦ PAGE 3

Physical activity complex rejected by Council

MICHELLE LENNON
News Writer

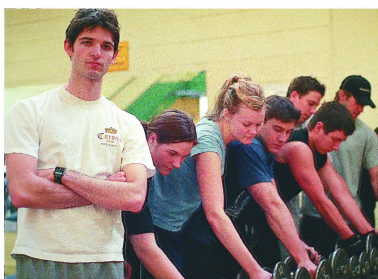
Students at the U of A will have to wait until next year to vote on a new physical activity complex after Students' Council rejected the proposed plebiscite last Tuesday night.

The proposal for the physical activity complex (PAC), made by the Recreation Action Committee (RAC), a student body that promotes campus recreation, and the facility of physical education and recreation, included plans for a new fitness centre and a new campus arena.

The decision to include the plebiscite, a non-binding question gauging student support, in this year's Students' Union election, fell to Students' Council after Chief Returning Officer (CRO) Dane Bullerwell rejected a petition in favour of the proposal.

Students' Council turned down the proposal in a 20 to twelve vote. All five members of the Executive voted in favour of the plebiscite.

Confusion over a petition circulated by RAC, which yielded over



FEELING THE BURN Dustin Loomes' activity centre is forced back at least a year.

MICHELLE RAU

3000 student signatures supporting the project, was a factor in the proposal's failure.

RAC followed an outdated version of procedural plebiscite regulations found on the Students' Union's website.

The version indicated that the petition must be circulated and then passed by the Internal Review Board (IRB), which reviews the internal structure of the Students' Union and drafts amendments and bylaws.

PLEASE SEE PAC ♦ PAGE 2

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Bigger than Spike's do

Pat Mastroianni is forever reliving his Degrassi High-school days. And he's coming to town to share the nostalgia.

A&E, PAGE 11



Build different

Building houses creates tonnes of waste. Tim Peppin takes a look at another healthier way to build homes.

FEATURE, PAGE 24

So long suckers!

The Gateway takes a break this Thursday for midterms and then another for Reading Week. See you on 1 March.

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colophon

The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, Linux PowerLab 1000 tablet scanners, and a Nikon Super Cool Scan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of Times, Times New Roman, and Helvetica. The Masthead is the Gateway's sister page. The Gateway's games of choice are R&G and System Shock 2.

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GSA report calls for indepth overhaul

IRIS TSE
News Writer

A committee investigating the long-standing problems of the Graduate Students' Association has concluded that the organization is dysfunctional and in need of radical change.

"This organization is just being held together by chewing gum and baling wire," said Jeremy Shrage, chairperson of the Committee to Review Institutional Structure (CRIS).

CRIS was created in November 2004 in response to the inordinate number of vice-president resignations over the past few years. Since May 2000 there have been nine resignations, the latest being Vice-President (Communications) Tania Gigliotti, who resigned in January 2005.

In addition, there's also what Shrage described as an "anemic level" of nominations for the upcoming Executive election. Only four people are running for the six Executive positions, and only one person is running for the positions of president and vice-president (communications), respectively.

The report was brought to the attention of Council members at the 7 February GSA Council meeting. It was developed from a survey that asked current and previous GSA executives how the organization should be improved. In addition to these suggestions, CRIS borrowed heavily from the existing Students' Union structure to craft the report.

The focus of the CRIS report is the complete overhaul of the GSA Executive structure by eliminating two of the five vice-president positions. The VP (student services) and VP (labour relations) will be abolished. Their duties will be redistributed to the VP (communications) and VP (finance and administration) respectively.



COMMITTEE GSA President Alexis Pepin wants the GSA positions to be a priority.

Other suggestions included a clearer GSA mandate, converting all GSA executive positions from part-time to full-time, and wage equality for all Executive members. There was also a call for more fiscal responsibility and elimination of unnecessary expenses like pewter bookmarks, gratuitous trips to conferences and other unjustifiable perks.

While the feasibility of a full-time GSA commitment was questioned, both the GSA president and the CRIS report think it is a necessary step to improve the GSA.

"If you cannot commit to doing this job full-time, do not run for it, end of story. ... If you really want to take up a highly intense leadership role, then

do that," said current GSA President Alexis Pepin.

Aside from an extensive overhaul of the current Executive structure, the CRIS report also extends censure to the councilors. It points out the lack of active participation and intelligent contributions from councilors during Council proceedings. Apathy among councilors and their sporadic attendance records were especially criticized.

Shrage admitted that the members of the committee came to some tough conclusions and that difficult choices will have to be made, but he hopes that everyone can approach the CRIS report with an open mind.

The GSA will decide during their next meeting whether or not to accept the CRIS recommendations. If the recommendations are accepted, the changes will be implemented in the 2006/07 school year at the earliest.

Proposed health plan will include opt-out

HEALTH PLAN + CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We asked students to rank what they would like to see covered, and prescription and vision were listed as numbers one and three; hospitalization was number two," Taylor said.

The proposed plan will cover prescriptions, vision care, massage therapy, physiotherapy, chiropractic care, travel health coverage, vaccinations, dental accidents and extended healthcare.

Additionally, the survey found only 45 per cent of respondents had dental coverage. However, the proposed plan would not include dental care.

Still, with 73 per cent of students in favour of having a dental plan, the U of A is considering one for the future.

"I think that the SU Health Plan is a positive step, and I'm looking forward to seeing what comes out of the referendum."

DUNCAN TAYLOR,
SU VICE-PRESIDENT (STUDENT LIFE)

If the plan comes to fruition, premiums for the health plan will automatically be included in student fees for both part-time and full-time students.

Those wanting to opt out will have to provide documentation from their health-plan provider proving that they have similar coverage.

Students will have a chance to vote on the plan in a referendum during the SU election on 9 and 10 March. If a majority of students support the plan, it could be implemented as early as next September.

Overall, Taylor was happy that the results of the survey showed that students were interested in and supportive of the initiative.

"I think that the SU health plan is a positive step, and I'm looking forward to seeing what comes out of the referendum."

More plans needed for recreation centre: SU

PAC + CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

RAC found out later that it was the other way around, as the question should have been drafted by IRB first, and then gone to petition.

This mistake forced the CRO to reject the petition, leaving the decision to hold a plebiscite to Students' Council.

Dustin Loomes, RAC chair, felt that this misunderstanding led to the proposal's downfall.

"In reality it came down to this error. If we'd had an updated copy of the bylaws, then we would have a plebiscite on the physical activity complex," said Loomes.

But Duncan Taylor, vice-president (student life), contended that an accumulation of minor problems led to the plebiscite's rejection.

"The necessary work had not been done and the necessary procedures had not been followed," he said.

In particular, Taylor noted that the faculty of physical education and recreation failed to provide a concrete building plan and did not determine if the centre would be student- or University-owned.

They also wavered on the final cost to students, and didn't determine if the Graduate Students' Association was in favour of the plan.

Still, Loomes is unhappy with the decision.

"Council could have been more supportive in giving students a voice in this issue," Loomes stated, stressing that they rejected a proposal that was widely supported by students.

"I'm very disappointed. This was an opportunity to encourage health and wellness on campus," he said.

However, Taylor agreed with Loomes that the U of A's current facilities are inadequate and that changes will eventually have to be made.

"The issue isn't dead," said Loomes.

"It is likely to go to a referendum or plebiscite next year. There's hope that we will get a new centre eventually."

Taylor said that the setback could be for the best, giving PAC supporters enough time to carefully plan the project.

"All sides are going to learn from this and will be ready to play ball come the next go around," he said.



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STREETERS

Compiled and photographed
by *Chloé Fedio and
Caitlin Crawford*

Well, Valentine's Day
has come and gone but
that doesn't mean we
can't ask you about it.

What is your most
embarrassing or
special Valentine's Day
memory?



Ashley Rae
Arts II

A guy gave me a white rose one Valentine's Day, and then I broke up with him. He wanted to go a bit further than I did, so I said no, and left. I never called him again.



Selby Quinn
Arts II

My dad used to always buy us books for our Valentine's presents. He said, "Why get chocolate when you can learn?" Every Valentine's Day he'd come home with a book and he'd always write in it something sweet about us being his Valentines. He still gets them for us. And I'll do it for my kids.



Ryan Lee Chee
Law I

One Valentine's Day my girlfriend at the time had to work so I surprised her with flowers.



Warren Woo
Law I

Two years ago I cooked for my girlfriend on Valentine's Day. And a week after, kind of like an extended celebration, we went to a concert by a group that we both love. We were both deathly ill but it was such a special night for us. We were both about to fall over but we were determined to see the group and we had an awesome time.

IBM opens centre at U of A

ANTONINO ANGHELONE
News Writer

A collaboration between IBM, the University of Alberta, and the Alberta government is bringing a new \$1.2 million research centre to campus.

The IBM Centre for Advanced Studies (CAS) was first established in Toronto in 1990 with the goal of strengthening the relationship between research communities and IBM. It has since expanded to many cities around the globe, including Austin, Barcelona, Dublin, and Ottawa.

IBM CAS Alberta is a three-year pilot project that will make use of existing U of A research space. It's the first centre to be located in Western Canada.

"The main purpose will be to link U of A researchers in certain key areas of machine learning, nanotechnology and bioinformatics to the research centres within IBM," said Dr Paul Sorenson, vice-provost (information technology) at the U of A.

The University of Alberta and IBM have had previous research interactions with each other, including the CyberCell project, which endeavours to create a computer model of a living cell in the next five years.

"There have been, over time, several examples of collaboration and commonality of interests between U of A researchers and developers and researchers at IBM labs," said Gabriel Silberman, an IBM CAS program director in Hawthorne, New York, who spoke on behalf of IBM.

"It was thought that it would make sense to provide a framework for these interactions... as well as serve as a platform for the further development of advanced technologies in the

province of Alberta."

According to Victor Doerken, Alberta's minister of innovation and science, the centre focuses on three areas of research for pragmatic reasons.

"We're only 3.2 million people [in Alberta], which in the whole globe isn't that many people. So, we're trying to pick the areas we can be successful at and focus on those," he said.

"There have been, over time, several examples of collaboration and commonality of interests between U of A researchers and developers and researchers at IBM labs."

GABRIEL SILBERMAN,
PROGRAM DIRECTOR,
IBM CENTRE OF ADVANCED STUDIES

Additionally, the centre will provide advanced technology and software for students to use, which isn't yet available in an academic setting.

"IBM brings to the table a wealth of knowledge accumulated during years of developing software. In addition, IBM can provide access to systems and data which are not available in an academic environment," Silberman said.

Although the likelihood of establishing another CAS in Western Canada is not yet known, Sorenson added that the centre could be eventually linked to other Alberta postsecondary institutions.

Campus bars post smaller profit margins than expected

AUDIT • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The word failure has come up more than a few times."

Over August, September, and October the Powerplant posted \$17 933 less in net profit than last year, and while profits began to rise over the winter months, Smith explained that the Powerplant is still nearly \$80 000 under the projected budget—which he called an "absolutely terrifying" amount.

"The general concern of the auditing committee is that bar revitalization is falling considerably short."

STEVE SMITH,
SU BUSINESS COUNCILOR

While profitability at the Powerplant has increased recently, Smith expressed a lack of confidence in whether or not the trend would continue.

"It's not as though we've finally got people to come to the 'Plant,' he explained.

"We've kept better control over general expenses, but volume is still low."

While revenues at RATT have increased to \$202 095 from last year's \$189 644, expenditures there also rose to their highest level in several years, causing RATT to also fall short of its projected profits by nearly \$8000.

Financial information provided by the SU showed that RATT's lower operating costs have shielded it from losses as large as the Powerplant's, but

a variety of factors—including menu and price changes—have taken their toll on customer volume.

RATT staff sources explained that the NHL lockout has been seriously detrimental to revenues at the bar, as the rebranding of RATT as sports bar was a central focus of Law's revitalization program. Significant amounts of capital and effort were used at the beginning of the fall semester to promote Oilers game nights, an initiative that proved ultimately fruitless, according to bar sources.

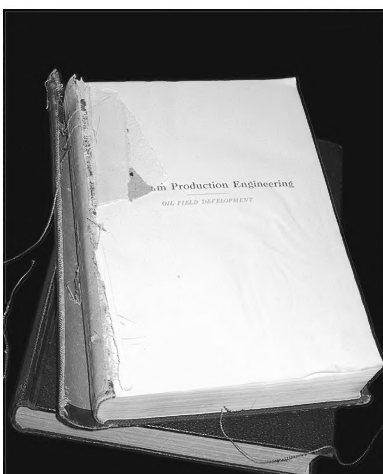
Every NHL night, the source explained, was expected to fill the bar to capacity, something that has not been happening in light of the lockout.

However, RATT showed nearly enough net profit, at \$19 739, to pay off its summer net deficit, which it paid off its net last year. In comparison, RATT posted a \$41 905 net profit in the fall semester of 2003. The Powerplant is considerably short of balancing its summer net deficit, having brought in only \$20 844 over the fall semester.

In fact, it has not made enough over the fall and winter semesters to balance its summer deficit since 2001. These figures, explained Smith, are causing the auditing committee a significant amount of worry.

"The general concern of the auditing committee is that bar revitalization is falling considerably short," said Smith.

"Although business has shown improvement in December, there's no telling if this trend will continue into the New Year. Powerplant and RATT seem to be getting less, rather than more, profitable."



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THE GATEWAY IS HIRING!



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Gateway is accepting applications for the position of Editor-in-Chief for the 2005/2006 publishing year. The term runs from 1 May 2005 to 30 April 2006 and pays \$1475/mo* from mid-August to April. Applicants must plan to be enrolled at the U of A in at least one class per semester for the 2005/2006 school year; must be available to work varying hours; must have computer and layout skills; and will preferably have been a Gateway editor, or possess equivalent leadership and editorial experience.** Applicants should submit a covering letter, résumé and a portfolio to **Gateway Business Manager (Don Iverson, 492-6669, biz@gateway.ualberta.ca)** by noon on Friday 4 March 2004. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an interview.

GENERAL STAFF MEETING

All current Gateway volunteers are asked to attend a General Staff Meeting where volunteer representatives for the Editor-in-Chief and Line Editor hiring committees will be selected. Those with three or more contributions to the Gateway in the last eight months are eligible both to run for, and vote on, these volunteer rep positions. Please be at the Gateway offices at 4:00 on Thursday the 17th of February or be square.

* Pay will be adjusted for CPI over the summer and may increase.

** Complete job descriptions (subject to change) are available at www.gateway.ualberta.ca/hiring/

THE GATEWAY



NATHALIE NADIAU

SILVER BAND-AID ANYONE? Dr Murray Gray tinkers with one of the new machines for the surface engineering centre.

University of Alberta surface engineering centre to be first in North America

HANNA NASH
News Writer

Equipment for the \$13-million Alberta Centre for Surface Engineering and Science—the first institute of its kind in North America—has arrived at the University of Alberta.

Although the Alberta Centre for Surface Engineering and Science (ACES) is still undergoing construction, research on atoms or molecules on the surface of solids has already begun. The new machines will be used to look at the exterior of a wide array of solid materials, ranging from powders to formed solids.

"We have many techniques in the centre that we can use to study the surface composition of the outer few molecules or atoms on the surface of solids," explained ACES Director Dr Murray Gray.

Already the new instruments have been useful in helping researchers create marketable products. Dr Robert Burrell, a faculty member in medicine and engineering, has been able to create an antibacterial wound dressing for burn victims through the use of the new machines.

Once the dressing is applied to the

surface of the burn, the tiny particles of silver embedded in the dressing kill any bacteria present. Using the new instruments, Burrell was able to determine which silver atoms were actively destroying bacteria on the surface of the victim's skin.

"Researchers are now able to go and create better products using silver as an antibiotic," explained Gray.

Research teams being led by about 15 to 20 U of A professors are using unique techniques to get very specific information about different surfaces. These include microelectronics and catalysts—substances used to alter the rate of a chemical reaction.

Gray's research team has already begun looking at ways to reduce the amount of waste, or coke, in oil-sands extraction. By using the new equipment, Gray will be better able to understand how waste is created during the extraction process. This could save companies like Syncrude tens of billions of dollars in years to come.

The instruments currently being used in chemical and materials engineering have placed ACES at the forefront of surface analysis, Gray said. The only field emission microscope in North America—used to generate,

examine, or record spectrums of light from substances—came at a cost of \$1.6 million alone.

Through government support, and companies such as Syncrude and Micralyne, the centre will also include a scanning microscope, which is used to analyze the chemical elements in the top few atomic layers of a surface.

Since research for surface analyses once conducted in facilities outside of Western Canada can now be completed at the U of A, researchers hope that this equipment will spark innovation and research.

"Our objective is to provide a service to the University community to allow people to do these kinds of analyses they weren't able to do before. We've already had users from the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Calgary because our equipment has a unique capability," said Gray.

One of ACES's other objectives is teaching graduate students how to properly use the new equipment. As of now, the U of A has had many students trained to use this equipment, which Gray believes will be a great help to students when they graduate.

ACES is expected to open in either late 2005 or early 2006.

APIRG

2005 Board of Directors Election

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Peer Health Educators suspended for term

Extended sick leave of coordinator forces temporary closure of the program

ERIN EALLES
News Writer

After an entire fall semester without a program coordinator, the Peer Health Educators program has suspended its services for the winter semester.

The program, which seeks to promote awareness of health issues ranging from sexually transmitted-disease prevention to stress management, has been terminated for the winter semester due to the extended medical leave of its program coordinator.

Duncan Taylor, SU vice-president (student life), was disappointed to hear about the loss of what he considers an invaluable student service.

"The big difference between the peer health program and other services [here] is education—it's helping students help themselves," said Taylor.

A fixture at the University of Alberta since 1988, the Peer Health Educators' approach to health promotion garnered the Capital Health's Prevention Power Award for innovation in health programming in 2004. The program has also been internationally recognized, serving as a model for other universities seeking to build their own programs.

But unfortunately, the prospect of facing another semester without a coordinator forced University Health Centre Director Dr Gordon McInroy to make an "agonizing" decision.

Likening the situation to that of a soccer team with no coach, McInroy explained that it had simply become too much of a risk-management issue, leaving both the students and the program vulnerable.

Without an experienced intermediary, McInroy felt that both the program

and its employees were becoming increasingly susceptible to criticism should there arise any misunderstandings or grievances. This would be unfair to the employees and dangerous to the program's future, he said.

"If you've got a high-quality program with high-quality people, you don't put the people at risk, you don't put the program at risk if you don't have the proper backup within the system," McInroy said.

"If you've got a high-quality program with high-quality people, you don't put the people at risk, you don't put the program at risk if you don't have the proper backup within the system."

DR GORDON MCINROY,
UNIVERSITY HEALTH
CENTRE DIRECTOR

When McInroy made the decision in December, the Peer Health Educators program had already been operating for an entire semester without a coordinator, something he had allowed due to the high quality of the employees.

"It is because they are so good that I give them a lot longer leeway than I would have done normally. Because they are first class," he said.

But the absence of strong leadership, he added, can compromise job performance in the long-run.

"Even the very best of teams will fracture to a degree when there's a lack of leadership there. Even in the very, very best of teams—and this I would classify as the very best of teams," McInroy stressed.

Sadly, due to the specialized nature of the program, and the sensitive subject matter it deals with, finding both a suitable and qualified temporary replacement was simply not a possibility, McInroy said.

Despite the unfortunate loss of employment Peer Health Educators, and the subsequent loss of service to U of A students, both McInroy and Taylor want to assure students that the appropriate measures are being taken to try and fill the void.

"The SU is trying to do what we can to make up the difference, allowing certain materials to be displayed at info desks," Taylor commented.

"We are allowing certain groups to come in and display information on tables at SUB."

The three remaining Peer Health Educators program assistants are also trying to do what they can in their limited capacity to ensure that relevant information is still accessible, with plans to bring in representatives from groups like Planned Parenthood, the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission, and the Birth Control Centre to educate students. In addition to having these organizations set up booths in SUB, the assistants will try to accommodate as many requests for presentations as their reduced capacity allows.

McInroy insisted that in spite of the semester hiatus, the Peer Health Educators program is merely "in hibernation" and will be back in full force in September.

GATEWAY NEWS

Meetings at 3pm Fridays, 3-04 SUB

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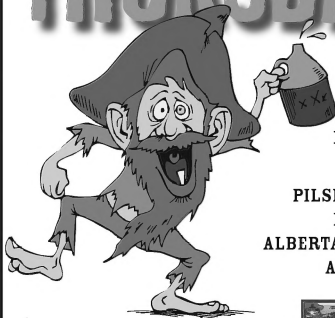
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Immortality would kill humanity

WITH THE ARRIVAL OF Dr Aubrey de Grey at our University last week, a lot of noise was made about a "cure for aging." De Grey, along with other scientists around the world, predicts that in a relatively short amount of time—anywhere from one generation to one century—humanity will have found, for lack of a better description, the elixir of life. Death will all but become a thing of the past, with people only falling prey to fatal accidents, not fatal diseases.

Obviously, this is a contentious enough claim in itself, but let's say, for the sake of argument, that one day humanity will become essentially immortal. Should this ever happen, we'll likely finally see Foucault's infamous "death of man."

Humanity has always found its greatest triumphs, if not its very reason for being, in struggle. Those regarded as our greatest leaders—people like Churchill, Lincoln, and in Canadian terms, Trudeau—are defined more by what opposed them than what they did. Much of invention is born from a struggle of some kind or another, whether it's against nature or just trying to get information out quicker. Even in our everyday lives, competition inspires us to something more; we'll often try harder or do better when we have someone or something we're trying to beat.

And with the removal of the threat of death, we'll have done away with arguably the biggest competition we have. One doesn't need to point out the countless works of art, to say nothing of entire philosophies, that have tried to come to grips with man's mortality. Ignoring the obvious religious significance of such an event, if man no longer fears death, what reason does he have to continue living? We'll have, for lack of a better term, won.

This isn't to say that the arrival of an elixir of life will be met with mass suicides and depression across the world. No, people will probably continue on pretty much as is, but that would be precisely the problem. Things would stagnate; people would find no reason to do much of anything. Why work, why create, why learn, why suffer, why strive, why believe, why love, why hate, when in the end, it's likely those who take the safest path will end up ahead, in the form of living longer? The world will be locked in permanent suburbia, where too much or too little will lose out in favour of just enough.

Obviously, this happens enough in our world as is; people will almost always settle for mediocre over something that might just be good, but might also be bad. But now, at least, there is one thing that can push us into something more: the fact that, eventually, we're not going to be around anymore. If nothing else stirs us, at least the cold, hard truth of mortality will give rise to something more than sitting on the couch.

But to remove that, to remove the one thing that humanity has always struggled against, is to take out something that is essentially human. If this ever happens, we might just live forever, but I doubt we'll have any reason to.

DAVID BERRY
Opinion Editor

Media shouldn't blindly back police

EDMONTON'S FAVOURITE talk-radio station, 630 CHED, recently mounted a "blue ribbon" campaign in support of our poor, besieged police force. On their website, they ask listeners to "... publicly show your support for the men and women of the Edmonton Police Service who patrol our city safe every day."

Notwithstanding the fact that I had no idea we have a city safe, this request is more than a little reprehensible, if only because it's completely inappropriate for so-called journalists to mount such a campaign. It's bad enough that Edmonton's local media is being blamed by several groups for the firing of Edmonton Police Chief Fred Rayner, something some would argue was way out of proportion to the now-famous overtime incident. But it's even worse that any media source in this city, radio or otherwise, would compromise their perceived objectivity to such an extent just to support a self-serving and corrupt police force.

KRISTINE OWRAM
Managing Editor

LETTERS

Purity test all kinds of wrong

This complaint is being sent to the Gateway regarding a "Purity Test" published on 10 February 2005.

Why am I complaining? Because the picture on the front page and article in the paper was disturbing, disgusting, repulsive, revolting, stomach-churning, degrading, shameful, garbage, condemnable, sickening, perverse, foul, distasteful, abhorrent, scandalous, objectionable, monstrous, vile, deplorable, unnatural, immoral, corrupt, wrong, unhealthy, impure, and evil! This is just to say a little!

JEAN-PAUL MAIRE
Education III

Homosexuals should accept God's love

In his 8 February letter, Jeff Gagnon ("Homophobes' gays, can't just get along") defends homosexuality from the assaults of a belief system that he deems hostile and hateful. He will "spit in the face" of such a system because it supposedly promotes "hatred and misunderstanding" of homosexuals. Sadly, he deems himself justified in "hating" and "fighting" against anyone who "fights" against [your] private life.

To begin, Mr Gagnon, you are correct in stating that Christian spirituality is hostile towards homosexuality. It is also hostile towards just and impartial, regardless of the poor, racism, raping and pillaging of the Earth in the name of capitalism, etc. The Bible does not mince words in identifying the evil that is found in the lives of all people around the world. Furthermore, it states that God will judge every evil deed; God is just.

Yet, God is also loving; he cares deeply for people, regardless of their actions. Surprisingly, God does not look at the darkness and evil in our lives and strike us down, though he would be justified in doing so. I could have been struck down a long time ago rather, he captivates and beckons us with a love like no other, demonstrated fully for us in the amazing life, horrific death, and wondrous resurrection of Jesus. He invites us to receive forgiveness for our rebellion, to become his friend and to begin to live as he did and still does.

So, the Christian message is not one of hate, but one of tough love from our Creator that requires each of us to lay down our weapons of defiance and to hold up the white flag of surrender to the one who loves us and knows us better than anyone. I sincerely hope that you will do just that, Mr Gagnon.

SCOTT BRIMACOMBE
Arts Alumnus

Slippery-slope arguments don't hold water

As always, I respect the opinions of my fellow peers and the alumnus of the U of A. However, I was slightly disturbed by the opinion of Lenny D'Agostini's "Same-sex



marriage is 'moral dynamite' (10 February). As a former theological major, I understand quite well the arguments against same-sex marriage from the far-right, evangelical, and/or fundamental point of view. However, D'Agostini has given a typically weak "slippery slope" argument that dangerously trends on a fine wire of outright discrimination.

I do not understand how the use of PCBs in the 1930s has anything to do with homosexuality. At least the social conservatives of previous generations have used something all relevant comparisons in their "slippery slope" arguments against the Goddamning equality rights for women, African-Americans, Japanese, and Native Americans.

As for the redefining of the family, maybe the unrealistic view of the perfect family doesn't exist. It is interesting that we do not see the social conservatives up in arms over the idea of divorce anymore—or, really, ever. The divorce of two parents does hundreds of times more psychological damage to children than a homosexual couple ever will under the worst of the scenarios that the social conservatives may bring.

For those who insist on viewing those of a homosexual orientation as moral depraves and will not be convinced otherwise, let us at least significantly reduce the supply of drugs on our streets. This is thanks to powerful drug syndicates that manipulate local gangs and other forms of organized crime to distribute their product, and at an unfathomable profit. As the law is tougher on drug crime, they are pushing the production, sales, and profit of the recreational drug industry further into the hands of those who can damage us most with it: violent drug dealers, foreign warlords, and terrorists.

Drug problems a result of illegality

Benjamin Wilkie's letter displays a common ignorance of the issues surrounding marijuana legalization ("Marijuana feature was irresponsible," 10 February). Perhaps someone who is not "too lazy to lobby for a change" can better inform you of the facts. I don't know how much experience you have had with changing harmful laws held in

place by enormous political pressure from your nearest oppressive, militarist superpower, but it isn't as easy as you imply.

The fact is that no one has grown up with a realistic perspective on drugs due to an amazing system of indoctrination and lies, perpetuated by every institution from schools to government to entertainment. Most people have no understanding of these issues. At this point, I will let you all in on a little secret: most of the problems associated with and caused by all illegal drugs are directly attributable to their illegal status. The only problem with drugs in our society is that they are illegal.

At first they may sound preposterous, but think, for once. The fact of the matter is that the demand for recreational drugs exists in our society. Simply branding the activity as illegal does not reduce demand, as shown by the last 70 years. The demand for illegal drugs is a very serious public-health issue, but to pretend it is a criminal or moral issue while doing nothing constructive is atrocious. Our government penalizes individuals who grow marijuana (or produce other drugs), and seizes all the drugs it can with already strained funds. Despite this, supply is not restricted.

No major drug bust, no police sting, has ever significantly reduced the supply of drugs on our streets. This is thanks to powerful drug syndicates that manipulate local gangs and other forms of organized crime to distribute their product, and at an unfathomable profit. As the law is tougher on drug crime, they are pushing the production, sales, and profit of the recreational drug industry further into the hands of those who can damage us most with it: violent drug dealers, foreign warlords, and terrorists.

Who, then, is the criminal? The user who minds his own business and grows his own product, or ignoramus who acts as though the only thing saving us from cultural ruin is the illegal status of some drugs?

BENJAMIN CLELAND
Psychology IV

Relationships aren't everything

I completely agree with Patrick Ross's article, "Valentine's day only helps marginalize people" (10 February). I'm getting quite sick of having romantic commercialism shoved down my throat. Just because I don't meet up with society's expectations of me doesn't mean that I am capable of changing myself to meet up with those expectations.

Anyone who doesn't seem to be happy and doesn't conform to the ideal that we all should be in a relationship ends up being marginalized and tossed out of the social community. We see it all around us in various mediums. It's hard to escape, and for those of us who are not in a relationship, hard to ignore. It's as though society has left us no choice but to hide ourselves in isolation. Quite frankly, I'm too tired in my own depression of still being single to really care.

Yet even though society doesn't seem to want people like me around, I can't let that get to me, because the world needs to realize that there are people like me around who won't just roll over and hide in my room. Sure, I may be depressed as a result of my situation, but I won't let that get me down; there are others things in life besides being in a relationship, and the rest of the world has to wake up and see that.

MATTHEW THEROUX
Arts III

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to opinion@gatewayualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author; to be considered for publication. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

Good news from Klein can only mean one thing: bad things are going to happen



ADAM
GAUMONT

Unless you were trapped under something heavy last week, you've surely heard that our premier has promised Albertans several generous, progressive, even, dare I say, liberal-minded financial boosts across the board. In an uncharacteristic, centennial-birthday-party-induced delirium, King Ralph announced during his anti-TV address that minimum wage will go up to a positively bourgeois \$7 per hour, that next year's tuition hike will be handled by the province's deep coffers, that AISH subsidies will increase, and that us hurtin' Albertans might even get an extra holiday this year in recognition of the aforementioned provincial b-day bash.

To the untrained eye, this announcement seems encouraging, if surprising. But to the trained eye, such a statement is suspicious at best, and downright dangerous at worst. For there is a highly complex, extremely delicate system in place here in Alberta that goes something like this: King Ralph, dispenser of pain and tax rebates, owner of all the land and its inextinguishable resources, adored by the wealthy, the conservative-y, the rural-y, and the redneck-y, decrees from on high many ill-advised and controversial statements that upset students, invalids and the "high-school educated" alike. The former group continues to elect Klein, the latter group

"Next, consider what would happen if us students didn't have to worry about next year's tuition increase. The Students' Union, with nothing to do, would spontaneously implode, leaving a black hole on the second floor of SUB that would vex scientists for years, thereby taking away from their current research."

continues to bitch and moan about it, and the cycle continues, *ad infinitum*. It is this finely tuned system that keeps this province running like the well-oiled machine that it is, without the slightest blip or anomaly in danger of throwing everything out of balance.

To illustrate the danger more clearly, the scientific properties of this proposition must be examined. First, let's consider the implications of raising minimum wage from the current atmospheric standard of \$5.90 per hour to a stratospheric \$7 per hour. To the dozens of people in the province who still make minimum wage, this will mean an increase in earnings of 18.6 per cent. This added buying power means that these people will finally be able to afford such non-Alberta-made products as toothbrushes and shoes, thereby boosting rural China's economy and upsetting our own. What's more, tipping will become obsolete, leaving failed actors, university students and others in the service industry with no incentive to work hard, further upsetting our economy, not to mention those waiting for their triple-late espressos.

Next, consider what would happen if us students didn't have to worry about next year's tuition increase. The Students' Union, with nothing to do, would spontaneously implode, leaving a black hole on the second floor of SUB that would vex scientists for years,

thereby taking away from their current research. Furthermore, the millions of dollars in dedicated SU fees would likely be foolishly redirected to more frivolous causes, such as building maintenance or actually lowering tuition.

Finally, imagine the ramifications of Albertans working one day less per year, even if only for 2005. The ensuing five-day holiday would see a surge in sales of (American-owned) Molson Canadian, and the subsequent wave of hangovers brought on by the increased numbers of "hartin' Albertans" would lower productivity at mills and refineries for days to come. More importantly, our collective average of hours worked per week would dip below 50, thereby putting us in the same league as those hippies in BC or those whiny slackers in Newfoundland. Needless to say, this clearly cannot be allowed.

Now add to the mix the mind-boggling density of Klein's statement as a whole. This much good news packed into one week is unprecedented, and the effects it will have on our province are both untested and unknown. Some experts fear that it will be akin to driving an overloaded logging truck across that shitty pasta-and-glyc bridge you made in your high-school physics class. Others fear that it threatens to rend the very fabric of space and time itself. Whatever may result, be forewarned: it could get ugly. And remember, you read it in the Gateway first.

Students' Union handles their responsibilities well

SU manages to find balance between service, cooperation and activism



ROSSIBALD
PRUSAKOWSKI

While sometimes it seems like they hardly exist, campuses across Canada have a variety of organizations that are supposed to represent students. Many of these students' unions are paralyzed by an inability to strike a balance between being a service provider, working with the administration to improve the campus community and being an activist on issues that greatly affect students.

While resolving this issue can confound student leaders and make the student association useless, the Students' Union at the University of Alberta has managed to figure out a way to juggle all of its responsibilities without getting egg on their faces. This ability has allowed the SU to become vastly influential and important for every student during his or her university career—even beyond the Students' Union Building and its cozy couches.

As far as the service end of things goes, the SU has carved out a perfect niche giving students services they would be looking for anyway, while trying to keep them affordable. RATT and the 'Plant provide a place to ponder the latest conditions of supply and demand, SUB provides a relatively smell-free alternative to Cameron's musky interior, and Bearcat saves

students an infuriating time while trying to register for classes. Add to this SUBtitles, which allows students to get more money back from their used books than the miserly Bookstore, and the SU provides essential services, unconcerned about the future prospect of profits. All of these services help students, or at least give them something they need, and all are ventures of the SU on its own, using student money.

While the SU and many years of student leaders have managed to do this out of the limelight, they have also known when a job with a big stick is needed in dealing with the University.

As well, through its relationship with the University administration, the SU has done a first-rate job securing more services and support for students. The 24-hour SUB project is an important act of cooperation between the SU and the administration, and shows that both are working for the benefit of students, regardless of the monetary costs. Add the deft handling of the grade-discrepancy issue that arose with last year's switch to the four-point system—the SU both pressed and cooperated with

the administration until mark corrections were worked out—and the SU has shown the ability to work hard with the administration to develop University life for students.

While the SU and many years of student leaders have managed to sit out of the limelight, they have also known when a job with a big stick is needed in dealing with the University. Being able to represent all students is a powerful tool, provides the SU with a big say in events on and around campus, and has helped students get a better deal when contentious issues come up.

One really only needs to look at the deal with Coca-Cola to see the clout the SU has. At other schools, as the agreements are expiring, students on those campuses still don't know the exact nature of where the money from those deals went. Here, students know the exact terms of the deal, where the money is going, and how much is being devoted to scholarships. All this is because the SU fought for a powerful and refused to sign the agreement if it wasn't included. On top of that, they made sure the agreement was put to a student referendum.

In managing to handle all these roles, the Students' Union has discovered a perfect balance between providing services, working with the administration and being an activist for students. All of this is well worth remembering when the wave of indifference regarding the SU rolls around and it is more often easier to see their failures than their successes. If you have a hard time recalling any, just grab a couch in SUB or a pint in RATT.

GATEWAY OPINION

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GATEWAY OPINION



Bicycles could solve a lot of problems



TIM PEPPIN

The Canadian government, and we as Canadians, seem to be having a great deal of difficulty reducing our greenhouse gas emissions to the levels demanded by the Kyoto Accord. This, despite the fact that the five per cent reduction in emissions agreed to in the Accord is nothing more than a small fraction of what is actually necessary to stop further global warming: something along the lines of a 60 per cent reduction in current emission levels is required, according to both the UK's Chief Scientist Sir David King, and Canada's own David Suzuki.

Canadians, it may distress you to learn, are also fat. And getting fatter. Obesity is one of the most pernicious conditions in medicine. It is causally linked to a variety of serious diseases of the heart and lungs, to diabetes, to a range of cancers, arthritis and infertility. Obesity alone threatens to bankrupt our healthcare system. Yet, despite the glut of information and authorities attesting to its harms, some 20 to 50 per cent of Canadians are obese, and obesity rates are on the rise across almost all age groups.

What's more, the Canadian environment, once pristine and robust, is being defiled at a staggering rate. Oil spills corrupt our oceans and coasts, rivers are so polluted that they are unfit for human contact, much less consumption, and our air has become unnaturally acidic, all of which lead to human health problems and can severely disrupt natural ecosystems.

What do these three things—inability to cut greenhouse gas emissions, rampant obesity, and environmental ruin—have in common? The answer, in large part, is the automobile. Canada's 14 million personal-use vehicles contribute almost 25 per cent of our total greenhouse gas emissions—a figure which neglects the enormous amounts of fossil fuels involved in the mining of their raw materials, their manufacture,

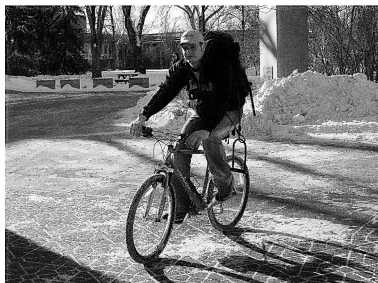


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: ASHLEY JENSEN

TWO WHEELS GOOD If you parked the car, we'd all be better off.

and their dismantling. Worn tires defy attempts at recycling, and are stockpiled while we manufacture millions of new tires annually. The intensive mining needed to acquire iron and aluminum spills huge quantities of toxins and heavy metals into streams, groundwater, and topsoil.

Perhaps most strangely, given what we know of their costs, our very cities are, and continue to be, designed almost exclusively for the vehicle. Houses and neighbourhoods are planned around the requirements of the car; homes are not clustered in community groups, but are instead deposited in uniform strips to allow easy and equal access to roadways. Streets themselves occupy between ten and 20 per cent of a medium to large city's total area—an abominably wasteful use of space and resources. Road maintenance is also very expensive, consuming between six and ten per cent of an average city's annual budget. Though perhaps most damning of all are the costs to human health and well-being accrued over time because of our willingness to embrace the sedentary lifestyle provided by the vehicle, the total cost of which we can't even estimate.

Yet there are ways to design or redesign cities which can greatly reduce or eliminate these problems, most of which centre on the bicycle. Bicycle tires use almost 25 times less rubber than a mid-sized car and, because they

are not woven with steel or carbon fibres, and because they are never run at high speeds, they both last longer than a car tire and are easily recyclable when worn. A bike also uses over 100 times less metal in its manufacture than a typical car, all of which can be recycled. They occupy only one-eighth the road space of a vehicle and, in most urban settings, have an average speed that is comparable to, or exceeds, a vehicle's. Most importantly, they produce no greenhouse gas emissions except during their manufacture, they are almost silent, and they require vigorous physical exercise to move.

Cities could easily be modelled around the needs and advantages of the bicycle. Vehicles are prodigiously expensive to the individual not only in their purchase price, but also in fuel costs, insurance, maintenance, and indirectly through taxation for roadway development and repair. Were our cities designed around the bicycle, these costs would largely disappear, freeing thousands of dollars of individual disposable income without a significant loss of mobility or convenience. The way in which we now design and expand our cities is inefficient, short-sighted, and in the end, unsustainable; a move to bicycle-centred urban planning can push us far past Kyoto, while preserving our collective health, our environment and, in the end, our economy as well.

Diversity means a lot more than just 'tolerance'



CHAD BARTISCH

be celebrated for it, isn't it?

Although I applaud any attempt at detente between various ethnic, religious and cultural groups, the notion of "sameness" does nothing to foster a sense of authentic identity, especially among new immigrants. My concern is that many Canadians could be developing a sense of false identity, cultivated by the homogenizing mass media.

A tangible example of this is that of the First Nations peoples, who, for many years, were compelled into residential schools where they were forced to give up their cultural identity in favour of the Canadian ideal. Although the most severe consequences are only starting to be felt today, many Aboriginal people caught in the transition have been left with no sense of authentic identity. Around the world, as the prevalence and pervasiveness of American "culture" swells, many different generations of varying ethnicities are becoming socialized without developing strong cultural roots in their own country's traditions. Instead, they have been adopted into new families, with the surnames Coke, McDonald's and The Gap.

The concept of diversity is at the very core of a peaceful and functioning pluralistic society. Tolerance alone

is inadequate, as it simply breeds homogeneity through non-acceptance of others' values and beliefs. And we don't want all of Canada looking like Sherwood Park, do we?

Think for a minute about how it must feel for someone to be simply "tolerated." Tolerating someone is analogous to a person holding his or her nose while bearing some form of unpleasantness. Tolerance is nothing more than racism marinated in the thick, sedulous juices of political correctness. It's an Americanized term, born in the same melting pot that produced such abominations as DUBYA and the like.

The danger of attempting to lump all Canadians into the same "I AM CANADIAN" column—by focusing simply on their similarities and neglecting their differences—is that we as a society could potentially be robbed of the rich cultural traditions that each ethnic group of Canada brings forth. But this is not to say that multi-generational Canadians have nothing to bring to the table. We're all part of the cultural mosaic in some way. As cliché as it sounds, Canada is a pluralistic, multicultural society where the diverse nature of every person should be valued, and not simply tolerated.

Until we get cybernetically enhanced police, wiretaps and databases will have to do



SCOTT C.
BOURGEOIS

Who remembers the old Saturday-morning cartoon *COPS*? The story was set in the near future, where a cybernetically enhanced police force would fight evil cybernetic criminals and the day would be won for cybermankind. That was a kick-ass show, and I, for one, look forward to a time when the police are cyber-enhanced superhumans with the speed and strength of a Greek god. Only then will they truly be effective at keeping the peace.

But what are our beloved men and women of the law to do until that fateful day? With city bars becoming knife-filled bloodbaths, Whyte Ave constantly on the verge of anarchy, and nosy journalists interfering in the police's sworn duty, it's getting harder and harder to protect the citizens of this fair city.

Firstly, the police need to be all-knowing. The city should organize a database of all potential troublemakers for the police to use at their discretion. Now, some might argue that everyone could potentially cause trouble, and

"Now, we'll need to ensure that they can do this at their discretion. We can't force them to wait for a judge to decide if a search is 'warranted.' They need to stop that potential terrorist now. So let's do away with that process all together. I mean, really, judges should be focusing on more important matters."

those people would be right. Thus, everyone would be included on the database. That's just prudent.

Next, the police should be able to invade the so-called "privacy" of any citizen at any time. I mean, why are you being so "private" anyway? Do you have something to hide? No? Well, then the police won't find anything in your house, now will they? This would include everything from the use of wiretaps on telephones, to searching your house while you're away at work, to even seeing the kinds of books you check out of the library. We can't have you reading things that are on the police's "No Reading" list.

Now, we'll need to ensure that they can do this at their discretion. We can't force them to wait for a judge to decide if a search is "warranted." They need to stop that potential terrorist now. So let's do away with that process all together. I mean, really, judges should be focusing on more important matters. Like giving harsh sentences for even the most minor infractions. Giving a teenager a life

sentence for loitering at the mall is a great way to discourage such behavior in others. Judges don't need to worry about the police. The police look out for their own.

Just think: if we allow these minor reforms, our safety will finally be assured. We'll be able to safely walk the streets at night. Or at least until 6pm, when the curfew hits. Some might call this Orwellian, and I call those people traitors. Then I call the police.

The media, of course, would have to fall in line with the police, for public safety. We can't let troublesome or disruptive messages stir up public chaos. The media should help remind the citizens about how much the police do for them. The police, after all, are the only thing keeping the barbarians at the gates. This means the media will have to agree with whatever the police tell them, and will never dare to try and criticize them. Only a criminal or a terrorist would dare to criticize the protectors of justice and their cybernetic powers.

We don't have a right to impose our cultural norms



JENNA
RODGERS

The idea of female genital mutilation (FGM), or female circumcision, tends to make most people cringe. The thought of having a part of your genitalia removed or destroyed should be making you feel extremely uncomfortable right now. I will be the first to admit that I do not agree with the practice of FGM; however, it is more complicated than the barbaric practices we envision here in North America, where the act of FGM is illegal.

Clitoridectomy, excision, and infibulation are the three types of FGM. Clitoridectomy and excision are the most commonly practiced forms of FGM in Africa, the continent on which FGM is most common. Clitoridectomy is the removal of either the clitoris, clitoral hood, or both, while excision consists of the removal of all or part of the *labia minora*. Infibulation consists of the cutting and then stitching together of the *labia majora*—leaving only a small hole for urine or menstrual blood to escape.

Often, many young girls undergo all these procedures at once, and the same tool is used for cutting. This

tool may be a scalpel if the girl is from a rich family, but it's more likely that the procedure is performed with rusty scissors or a shard of glass. Often, girls are stitched together with a thorn from a plant and some coarse thread, then their legs are bound together in order to "help" the healing process. All of this is most commonly done without the use of any anesthetic, according to various reports about the practice.

Although several countries currently have policies that prevent licensed health professionals from performing female circumcision, the practice continues. For example, in Egypt, doctors are not allowed to perform female circumcision; however, 97 per cent of all females still undergo clitoridectomy, excision, or infibulation. Throughout the world, it is estimated that around 6000 girls undergo some form of FGM every day.

This mutilation is not as frequently justified with religious reasons as one might expect. Women are mutilated predominantly for cleanliness—in fact, women are often not allowed to handle food or water without being mutilated. Female circumcision also serves a practical purpose—if a woman has undergone infibulation, her husband will be able to ensure that she is a virgin before he commits himself to marriage. The woman will subsequently be tighter and provide the man with more pleasure.

How ever uncomfortable the issues

surrounding female circumcision make us, we must remember several young girls are being taught that it is an essential part of their upbringing. Many of these girls do not know why they are being cut during the actual event, but they learn the cultural significance of the mutilation afterwards. I am not comfortable with children being forced to undergo procedures against their will, but parents in countries across the world believe that FGM is a necessary part of a girl's transition into womanhood.

We cannot—without severe controversy—explain to people why their beliefs are wrong. We cannot tell countries that the practice of FGM is barbaric and expect it to stop.

As righteous as we may feel expressing our feelings that female circumcision is unethical, we aren't doing anything to stop it—and the way reality has it, we'll likely not be able to convince the world that female circumcision isn't benefiting these young girls.

Everyone wants to make a difference, but maybe the only thing we can really try to do is fight for sanitation of their tools. There is a lot that can be said of scalpels over scissors, anesthetic over cold water, and sutures over coarse thread. If they're going to snip the clitoris, they might as well do it with some cleanliness. FGM still makes me cringe, but we can't impose our cultural norms on another society.

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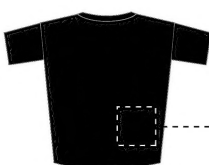
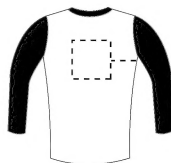
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GFC COMMITTEES: STUDENTS NEEDED

The terms of office for students serving on **General Faculties Council (GFC)** Standing Committees and Appeal Boards and committees to which GFC elects members will expire on April 30, 2005.

Undergraduate and graduate students (except as noted) are encouraged to apply now to serve on any of the following committees for terms of office beginning May 1, 2005, and ending April 30, 2006. (Some students currently serving on these committees may be seeking re-election to serve additional terms.)

Committee	Student Vacancies	Meeting Times
ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE (APC): GFC's senior committee dealing with academic, financial and planning issues.	ONE undergraduate & ONE graduate	2:00 pm/2nd& 4th Wednesdays
ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE (ASC): GFC committee dealing with admissions, academic standing, transfer and examination policies.	ONE undergraduate (Undergraduate students who have transferred from an Alberta college are encouraged to apply)	9:00 am/3rd Thursday
CAMPUS LAW REVIEW COMMITTEE (CLRC): Reviews Code of Student Behaviour, Code of Applicant Behaviour and Residence Community Standards.	ONE undergraduate & ONE graduate	9:30 am/last Thursday each month
COMMITTEE ON THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT (CLE): Promotes excellence in teaching and optimal learning environment and provides for appropriate information resources to the University community.	ONE undergraduate & ONE graduate	2:00 pm/1st Wednesday
FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (FDC): Recommends on planning and use of facilities, proposed buildings, use of land, parking and transportation.	ONE undergraduate	9:00 am/3rd Friday
UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE (UASC): Approves new awards for undergraduate students including selection and eligibility.	TWO undergraduates	Three times a year (October or November, February or March and April or May)
UNIVERSITY TEACHING AWARDS COMMITTEE (UTAC): Adjudicates the Ruth-Edwards Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, the William Handy Alexander Award for Excellence in Seasonal Teaching, and the Teaching Unit Award.	TWO undergraduates & ONE graduate	Normally meets three times a year (October, March and April)
ACADEMIC APPEALS COMMITTEE (AAC) / UNIVERSITY APPEAL BOARD (UAB): AAC hears and decides appeals regarding academic standing. UAB hears and decides appeals regarding disciplinary decisions of the Discipline Officer and Dean as made under the Code of Student Behaviour.	AAC: ONE Regular graduate & THREE alternate graduates. UAB: FOUR undergraduates & FOUR graduates.	Hearings are normally scheduled from 4:30 pm onward and last from three to five hours. Students applying to either committee must have flexible late afternoon/evening schedules. YOU MUST BE AVAILABLE AT LEAST TWO NIGHTS MONDAY-THURSDAY. Please provide the names and contact information for at least three references, as oral reference checks will be conducted for both committees.
COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS (COSA): The aim of the Council is the betterment of the quality of student life at the University of Alberta.	ONE undergraduate & ONE graduate	

Application forms and committee information are available in PDF format on the University Secretariat website: <http://www.ualberta.ca/secretariat/>, or in Room 2-5 University Hall. Applications should be completed and returned to the University Secretariat by **Friday, March 4, 2005**. For information regarding committee membership and terms of reference, students are invited to contact: Ms Marlene Lewis, Secretary to the GFC Nominating Committee (NC), at 492-1938, or by e-mail: marlene.lewis@ualberta.ca.

NOTE: There is ONE STUDENT VACANCY on the GFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE for an undergraduate student who is a GFC member. Expressions of interest should be directed to Ms Ellen Schoeck, Secretary to the GFC Replenishment Committee.

Canada risks sovereignty with lacklustre military



TONY
SANTIN

vast stretches of territory in forbidding temperatures, but they certainly aren't getting any favours from the government: they're issued old World War II-era rifles and have to provide most of their own cold-weather gear, like parkas and boots.

As for the response of our regular forces, they conducted an exercise on Baffin Island last September in rough conditions to test the responsiveness of the military to a potential situation in the North. While military planners intentionally made the scenario complicated, there were more than a few obstacles that made the exercise more difficult than it had to be. Almost on cue, the Sea King on the HMCS Montreal broke down. While there were other helicopters attached to the exercise, moving the troops from ship to shore was done mostly by local fishing boats. Soldiers even got lost during the mission. And, rather than trying to learn from their mistakes, the next Northern exercise isn't scheduled until sometime in 2006.

Back during the Pearson era, our position in international diplomacy and peacemaking was at its height. It should come as no surprise, then, that this was also a time when our Armed Forces were in a much better state in regards to equipment and planning.

Pardon my realism, but force is still the currency of the international system. Back during the Pearson era, our position in international diplomacy and peacemaking was at its height. It should come as no surprise, then, that this was also a time when our Armed Forces were in a much better state in regards to equipment and planning. If we are to be regarded by the world as a player on the international stage, or even just keepers of our own backyard, this government had better get its head out of the snow and commit to a long-term vision for the Armed Forces.

To make matters worse, our current commitment to the North in terms of the military is laughable: a radar post at Alert Bay, the northernmost point of Canada, a glorified cadet camp in Whitehorse, and the Canadian Rangers watching over the tundra. The Rangers, a handful of local army reservists, are admirable in their efforts of patrolling

borders to support killing terrorists.

And now you can pretty much buy a stupid ribbon to show your support for anything, from tsunami relief to the need for more tsunamis. All of a sudden, rather than being a stupid garnish to an already lavish prom dress, these damn multi-coloured ribbons are filling up my chest so you can't see the Nike logo on my sweater.

Into the sack with you and your blue ribbon campaign, CORUS Entertainment. The only reason to buy one of your ribbons would be to curry favour with the cops and avoid the inevitable public-intoxication ticket I'll be getting this Reading Week.

PAUL OWEN

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.

THE BURLAP SACK

In the wake of "Project Overtime," the CORUS radio group in Edmonton has been offering up navy-blue ribbons to wear in support of EPS. Ribbons, for fuck's sake!

Maybe it was cool when AIDS was the only kid on the block hawking their red swif on the breast of those doing the AIDS walk. But then little sister breast cancer got on in the act, wanting to be like her big brother. Unfortunately, their pink ribbon really doesn't match my shoes, which makes it hard for me to wear it to school without looking like an idiot.

It didn't stop there, though. Other cancers got on in the act. Teen suicide jumped on the bandwagon with a yellow ribbon. Americans proudly displayed their red, white and blue rib-

A&E

entertainment@gateway.ualberta.ca • Tuesday, 15 February, 2005

Degrassi Highs and lows

Pat Mastroianni (aka Joey Jeremiah) will always come back to his television alma mater

Pat "JoeyJeremiah" Mastroianni and Stefan "Snake" Brogren

John L. Hoar Theatre
Monday, 28 February at 6pm

LEAH COLLINS
Arts & Entertainment Editor

As sure as your hand-me-down rabbit-eared television set can pick up the CBC, you've seen an episode of *Degrassi*.

Since *Degrassi Junior High* hit the air in 1986, you'd be hard-pressed to find a young Canadian who couldn't warble a line of The Z!t Remedy's only "hit" single or admire the ever-changing height of Spike's signature coif. And with *Degrassi: The Next Generation* still going strong on CTV, several generations have now grown up with the show's pimples-and-all cast—sharing their stories of everything from anorexia to jizzing the bed.

But for actors like Pat Mastroianni, who is best known for his now ten-year tenure as the once fedora-wearing Joey Jeremiah (he's been with the series since '86 and is currently reprising his role on *Degrassi: The Next Generation*), being a part of such a pop touchstone is a part of his life that he can't let go—no matter how trying the responsibility of being a Canadian icon of sorts is.

"Ten years ago I didn't think I'd be doing *Degrassi* in 2005; I just didn't see it. But I think a part of me has to do it—because I've grown up in television and because I've been interviewed by people and looked up to by certain fans. It's a part of me."

Mastroianni—along with Stefan "Snake" Brogren—will be sharing personal anecdotes, both about life on and after the *Degrassi* set, later this month at Grant MacEwan. It's a familiar role for Mastroianni who's been doing off-the-cuff *Degrassi* discussions on the speaker circuit since the early '90s—digging the chance to connect with fans. "It's a real high to do this sort of thing live," he says. "It's just a matter of talking about ourselves, and I've been doing that for 20 years."

The two have been touring Canadian campuses over the past year and a half and have modelled their show after notorious *Degrassi* fan Kevin Smith's *An Evening with Kevin Smith* documentary series, after being impressed by Smith's fun and interactive speaking style.

"It's a Q&A and it's very relaxed," says Mastroianni of his show. "Sometimes we go on for 45 minutes talking about *Degrassi* because these kids want to know what it's like, some stories about behind the scenes and what happened when you did this or that. Really the audience dictates what we talk about for the two hours we're up there."

"Ten years ago I didn't think I'd be doing *Degrassi* in 2005; I just didn't see it. But I think a part of me has to do it... It's a part of me."

PAT MASTROIANNI

While the talk is organized under the pretense of giving students a *Degrassi* *Speaks*-esque pep talk about the struggles of the post-university "real world," Mastroianni suggests that the audience is usually more interested in digging up some dirt on the *Degrassi* stars: tales of backstage romance and what the stars have been up to since they "graduated" from their TV alma mater. As for the latter question, when Mastroianni wasn't doing gigs like the short-lived mid-'90s series *Liberty Street* or CBC's *Musical Works*, he was engaged in what he describes as a "cool, manly job."



WHO ARE YOU CALLING A BROOMHEAD? Pat "Joey Jeremiah" Mastroianni.

"When I'm not working on *Degrassi*, I work with my father with his construction company, driving a dump truck, driving a backhoe and a BobCat and working with the labourers on the job sites, and in the wintertime doing snow removal for my dad—not because I get a paycheck, but because I like doing it. It's such a rush getting out there and getting dirty and being part of a team and arriving somewhere and having to destroy something and rebuild it. It's a sense of accomplishment for me, because as an actor I enjoy creating and being artistic in that way, and to a certain degree being in the business with my father I get to do the same thing," he says.

As much as he likes the construction site, somehow Mastroianni always finds himself in Joey Jeremiah's shoes. Most notably, in 2000, he returned to the role for the *Degrassi* reunion special, an appearance that was supposed to be nothing more than a one-time deal.

But as the new series developed, the opportunity to become a regular character surfaced, and Mastroianni grabbed the chance to get back to his roots.

"I've always wanted to go back and do that stuff that we did in the '80s and '90s. I didn't quite have the skills to do the quality of work that I wanted to do. And here I was being given the chance to go back in time and relive a moment in my past that I really enjoyed doing and to play this character and to bring him full circle almost, to show him as an adult, and for myself, to show the industry that I'm still deserving to be in this industry, that it wasn't a fluke."

There are worse things to be remembered for than being Joey Jeremiah, says Mastroianni, content to let the character be his legacy, his contribution to Canadian culture. But at the same time, he still realizes that he's clung to his famous alter ego for a longer time than most.

"You know, I definitely feel like I've milked the Joey Jeremiah character for all that he's worth," he laughs. "I definitely feel like playing this character for ten seasons of television is a lot."

But Mastroianni isn't ready to hang up his fedora just yet. The *Next Generation* likely has just one season left (the cast is about to graduate, after all) and he intends to make the best of his time on set, if only to hopefully bring his character to a happy ending—even if the idea of such a thing happening seems a little un-*Degrassi*.

"You know, I definitely feel like I've milked the Joey Jeremiah character for all that he's worth."

PAT MASTROIANNI

"Joey's life is very much a disaster," he says, referring to the show's recent developments of trouble in Joey's business and personal life. "I would like to see Joey get back on his feet again... I think he deserves it... I'd like to see things come to a more positive ending for him, but not Hollywood, everything's-great ending, because that's not *Degrassi*, where everything's happy-happy. I don't want that, but I would like to leave the character with people saying, 'He's going to be okay,' because I want the young adults who are at university to understand that the next ten years are going to be pretty difficult and let them know that life will test them," he says.

"I hope that by Joey coming around full circle and having more positive things happening to him, that it will inspire young people to say, 'Hey, if this guy can go through hell and back and keep a positive attitude and things are going better for him, then maybe things'll go better for me in the future when things get tough.'"

And, just in case that argument for a happy ending doesn't work with next season's writers, he adds, "Besides, the fans feel they know us already because they feel they've grown up with us. They would kind of root for us; they want to cheer us on."

Ike Turn-around

Ike Turner & The Kings of Rhythm
Sidekick Café

Thursday, 17 February at 8pm

MICHAEL LAROUCHE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Drugs, alcohol, run-ins with the law, and all-around controversy are as much a part of the rock lifestyle as the music. And for Ike Turner, legendary bandleader and the man nicknamed the "Father of Rock and Roll," it's only appropriate that he's lived the lifestyle associated with the genre he spearheaded. But while Turner's contributions to music may be far-reaching, saying the name "Ike Turner" conjures up more thoughts of his hard living and abusive past than of a man who was instrumental in developing rock music as we know it.

More than 50 years since Turner began performing the blues in the American south, he's clean, sober and has thrown his musical style back to the big-band rock 'n' roll that made him, along with his ten-piece band The Kings of Rhythm, famous. Mounting a comeback in 2001 with the release of the Grammy-nominated *Here and Now* and fighting a surprising case of stage fright, Turner seems prepared to hit the stage.

"I had known that I would have been accepted like this by the public the way that I have, man, I would have done this 50 years ago," laughs Turner from his California home. "I've always been bashful and I've always been in the background—it was just where I was comfortable at. Now I'm playing guitar and piano onstage with the audience and just enjoying myself. The hardest thing to do was the first show, and now I've just been getting better and better. The audiences, man, have just been unbelievable. You're in for a show like you've never seen."

Turner admits he struggled to stay modern musically throughout the '90s, but found that his classic style was more in demand. The boogie-woogie sound that he pioneered into rock 'n' roll is harder to find, though, in an industry that puts more emphasis on image than music, which is an unfortunate reality for an artist like Turner who was asked for the golden days of not just the blues, but also the recording industry.

"I think that the blues have more to offer than what you have heard," says Turner. "Back in the day you knew Jackie Wilson from Ray Charles, B.T. James from Aretha Franklin, but this was back when Atlantic Records, Chess Records, and Modern/RPM were taking care of disc jockeys all over America keeping that kind of music going. There aren't a lot of outlets for this type of music anymore, so you don't get a lot of creativity. Now if the girl looks good or the guy looks good, they put half a million dollars behind them in promotion and make them a superstar. Like, they got this Paris Hilton—I don't know what she do! It's a shame. The record industry is going down for everybody, man."

Despite the transformation of the music business, like is still like, and his music hasn't changed. He's assembled a new lineup for The Kings of Rhythm, and is playing festivals and shows all over North America, receiving glowing reviews from critics who normally focused on his controversial past rather than his contributions to rock 'n' roll. With a hit record and a revived show, the critics—and Turner—seem to be putting that past behind them.

"A million people ask me what I want to be remembered for, and now I know," says Turner. "To be remembered as one guy who destroyed his career and hit bottom doing drugs, and managed to come up from under the rubble. I went all the way below the ground, and today I can say that I'm the happiest somebody that you ever saw in your life. You can hit bottom, and there is a way up, man. But you have to reach back into your pocket and give all of yourself to yourself to reach that goal."

'The crappiest piece of crap in Craptown!'

Son of the Mask a mess of pee jokes and slapstick

Son of the Mask

Directed by Lawrence Guterman
Starring Jamie Kennedy, Alan Cumming
and Teylor Howard
Opens Friday, 18 February

ASIA SZKULAREK
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Charming! Fun! Hysterically surprising! These are all adjectives that a reviewer would like to work with when writing a movie review, because the thesaurus has more alternative words for "great" than it does for "the worst cinematic failure of all time."

But none of those delightful descriptors could be attached to *Son of the Mask*, one of those poor films banished to the latter category.

Son of the Mask is the not-so-anticipated sequel to 1994's *The Mask*—in which Jim Carrey plays a milk-mannered bank clerk who transforms himself into a rambunctious alter ego by wearing an ancient mask said to belong to Loki, the Norse god of mischief. A decade later, the mysterious artifact finds its way into the hands of Tim Avery (Jamie Kennedy). Tim's a burnt-out animator looking for his next big break while simultaneously being pressured into having a kid with his successful wife Tonya (Teylor Howard).

Anxious to impress his boss, but with nothing to wear to the office Halloween party, Tim settles for an old mask which his dog has dug up from a creek bank and surprises his

co-workers by turning into a charming, cartoony wild man. That night, while still wearing the mask, Tim opts for a healthy romp with Tonya that nine months later results in Alvey, the Avery's first son.

Not your ordinary baby, Alvey is found to have inherited the naughty characteristics of Loki, who throughout the course of the movie is on a quest to recover his lost mask. To make a long story short, magical baby plus lost mask multiplied by very pissed-off god equals apparently "hilarious" consequences.

It's a challenge to explain the many things wrong with this production. Jamie Kennedy's performance, while amusing in a retardedly cute way, will likely put a damper on his reputation as Hollywood's sarcastically sophisticated funny man.

While the movie is obviously targeted towards your average seven- to twelve-year-old, it makes lame attempts at adult wit that, amongst the older demographic, achieves more eye-rolling than genuine chuckling. Combined with an overabundance of fart jokes, pee incidents and slapstick humour, it's no wonder that *Son of the Mask* is less likely to appeal to you, and more likely to appeal to your little sister or less-than-intelligent frat buddy.

But perhaps the movie is best described not in the words of an objective reporter, but by one of the movie's own leading characters: "This is the crappiest piece of crap in Craptown!"

Out, out, damned Reeves

Constantine

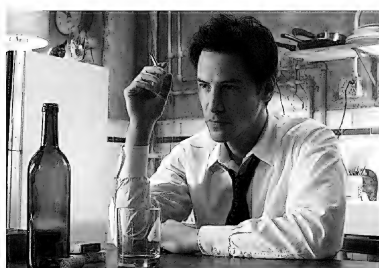
Directed by Francis Lawrence
Starring Keanu Reeves, Rachel Weisz, Tilda Swinton, Gavin Rossdale, Max Baker and Pruitt Taylor Vince
Opens Friday, 18 February

DANIEL KASZOR
Production Editor

Some movies are good, some movies are very bad. Most float in the meaty middle between, playing in mediocrity. But these films left drifting in purgatory must eventually end up in one camp or the other. *Constantine*, unable to redeem itself from the sin of terrible acting, ends up slipping into bad-movie hell.

Constantine is the story of John Constantine (Keanu Reeves), the world's leading occultist. Like any good anti-hero, John lives in the grey area between good and evil, and in this case quite literally between heaven and hell. You see, Constantine can see things—like demons and angels, for example—that people aren't generally supposed to see. When a demon "breaks the rules of balance," Constantine has to send them back to hell. And, since Constantine is probably going to hell—he's a anti-hero, after all—he won't get the warmest welcome.

The problem with *Constantine* is that (even though it gets a lot of the epic trappings of a fight between hell and heaven right) a story about a tormented, badass, dark hero doesn't work unless the actor playing said badass can pull it off. Sadly, Reeves isn't up to the task. Not even some above-average character work from much of the supporting cast can save this film



without a solid foundation.

Constantine is written as a real prick, a guy who grabbed life with attitude alone. Reeves, however, appears withdrawn and wooden, always ready to drop a dry "I know kung fu" into every conversation. Unlike *The Matrix*, where Reeves' woodenness was honed into an art, here it details a character who needs more rough edges.

Rachel Weisz, the film's other lead, isn't as bad as Reeves, but seems oddly distracted throughout, almost as if she isn't trying. She isn't terrible in her part as a detective investigating her twin's suicide, but she doesn't bring anything extraordinary either.

The bit players are much better. Tilda Swinton may have been typecast as an androgynous fop when she played the title character in *Orlando*, but she brings out the best in the few minutes of screen time she has as the angel Gabriel. Also notable are Max Baker and Pruitt Taylor Vince as Constantine's creepy friends. Unlike

Reeves' Constantine, they actually act like they live in a world where demons roam, and are noticeably unsettled because of it. Gavin Rossdale (Bush lead singer and Mr. Gwen Stefani) also makes a decently sinister turn as the demon Balthazar.

Visually the movie works better, from a shocking car crash in the movie's opening moments to the rather epic look of Gabriel and Lucifer. First-time director Francis Lawrence certainly makes the film look stylish. It's relatively clear that he's a music video director, as he can't tie these interesting visual elements around a strong narrative or acting performance.

In the end, despite some lush visuals and charming character acting, the whole of the film never comes together. The success or failure of the film depends on Reeves' ability to emot, and Lawrence wasn't able to get that out of him. *Constantine* is best left in hell, or, barring hell, the cheap theatre.

TAKE OFF, eh!



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Rhyming-couplets therapy

Swollen Tongues

Directed by Miko Ouchi
Starring Lora Brovold, Vanessa Sabourin, Twilla MacLeod and Christopher Postle
The Third Space (11516 103 Street)
Opens Friday, 18 February

SCOTT C. BOURGEOIS
Arts & Entertainment Writer

When Bittersweet Theatre producer Lora Brovold set out to put on a show, she was looking for something with intensity and grit. What she found, though, was a romantic comedy.

"I read this play [*Swollen Tongues*], and it made me laugh. And the more I read it, the more hysterical and crazy the plot got," Brovold says.

Written as a Restoration-style farce, *Swollen Tongues* won the 1997 Canadian National Playwriting Competition for its author, Kathleen Oliver. The play features an intricately tangled plot delivered in poetic couplets and iambic pentameter. The complex writing and the prospect of wearing a period costume didn't scare

Brovold away from the script, though.

"I like a challenge," Brovold laughs. "It's an entirely different style, but the language and the heart of the piece are so human."

The show begins with a brother and sister who are students of poetry. Unfortunately, neither of them is particularly talented. Eventually, the sister begins plagiarizing her brother's ideas under an assumed male name. The plot thickens when the sister's seamstress discovers her poetry, and falls in love with the male persona she invented.

This somewhat bizarre love triangle eventually leads to the brother and sister vying for the affections of the same woman. With same-sex marriage such a hot topic, both here in Canada and abroad, a love story involving two women might be seen as politically convenient. Brovold acknowledges the timeliness of such a play, but she assures that this link is purely coincidental.

"The central character is a lesbian, and it ends up happily but there's no assumption of marriage or anything,

just a coupledom. There's so much that gets lost in the semantic and political arguments about same-sex marriages. I like how this play sort of cuts away all the excess of that and narrows it down. At its heart, it's just about two people who love each other, and want to be together."

Since taking on the role of the sister character, Catherine, Brovold feels that she now has a better understanding of the plight of a person in the same situation. *Swollen Tongues*, however, is set in an earlier time where issues such as lesbianism were not as publicly accepted. "[My character] uses the word 'aberration,'" Brovold says.

"She says, 'If I were a man and not an aberration, then I would be able to compete for Sonya's love.'"

Reading that line was a poignant moment for Brovold, one that helped her understand her character. Brovold explains that Catherine just wants to think of herself as normal, and to have the world think of her that way.

"You realize this is a woman, and all she really wants is to love someone, to share her life with them."



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Notice of Referendum

On Tuesday, February 8, Students' Council voted to include the following binding referendum question on the ballot in the March 9 and 10 Students' Union election:

Do you support a new fee:

1. Establishing an undergraduate health care plan in accordance with the contract signed by Studentcare.net/works and the Students' Union.
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(b) \$76 per student enrolled in only the Winter term for eight months of coverage.
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4. With an opt in clause for students enrolled in only the winter term or part time students.
5. With no opt out available to students who do not have comparable coverage as outlined in the contract.
6. That will expire August 31st, 2008.

If you would like to register as part of the Yes or No campaign for this referendum question you must attend the upcoming Candidates Meeting.

This meeting will be held on Thursday, February 17 at 6 PM on the 3rd Floor of SUB.

There will be a Health Plan information session held in the Alumni Room on Wednesday, February 16 at 5 PM. Students interested in participating in a referendum side should attend.

For more information about how to register for a referendum side, please email the Chief Returning Officer at cro@su.ualberta.ca.

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Sausage-party animals

The Waking Eyes
with The Marble Index and Boy
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Saturday, 19 February at 8pm

TYSON KABAN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Life on the road has been one big sausage party for The Waking Eyes.

After exclusively sharing bills with male acts like Billy Talent, Sam Roberts and The Music over the past couple of years, the band's starting to tire of platonic ass-patting and fraternal love. But, as the band's bassist Joey Penner points out, while the group's homosexual lifestyle might make them miss their girlfriends all the more, playing with their peers also gives them the chance to be directly stacked up against the competition.

"We get a lot of comparisons. I guess we could be lumped right into the straight-ahead, Can-rock category like The Trews, but we're really different," Penner says on the phone before playing a show in Ottawa. "We're a bit harder-edged than some other acts. We crank the guitars up louder and there's a retro influence that comes out from The Beatles and The Who that definitely influences our sound. Definitely I think it's in a small league of its own."

That might be why the art-rock outfit founded by Rusty Matyas, Matt Peters and Stephen Senkiw (Penner joined the band eight months ago) has

recently been nominated for a Juno. They don't have any expectations—they're going head-to-head with popular snot-rockers Alesso and current tourmates The Marble Index for Best New Group—but they've bought into the cliché that the nomination will gather them more publicity than the tacky Juno statue will gather dust.

"It's a pretty huge deal for us to be nominated, because none of us know anything about the music industry in Canada will know at least our name and what we're about," Penner says.

If they snag the trophy, don't expect their egos to swell. As the newest member of the band, Penner hasn't grasped The Waking Eyes' burgeoning celebrity in Canada and is still surprised when well-known musicians give him the time of day.

"Before I joined the band I'd never really been to Toronto. One day I was at a meeting with our management company and Jeremy Taggart from Our Lady Peace was there," he says. "In junior high I pretty much worshipped him. I thought he was so awesome. And then he's just standing there and you're talking to him like

it's no big deal. As it happens more often, it becomes not such a big deal. It's more like they're your peers as opposed to your idols."

And while the band still looks up to other artists—their name was lifted from a Pink Floyd lyric, for instance—they haven't followed the sex-and-drugs mantra followed by their predecessors. Just rock 'n' roll will do nicely.

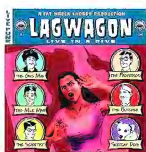
"People have to understand that it's not the early '80s anymore. I think the Canadian music industry is a lot more tame than some people want to believe," Penner says.

"For us, it's just about guys in rock bands playing music and hanging out together."

With drug- and groupie-induced debauchery out of the question, most of the rock-star mayhem tends to come from what Penner calls "random chaos."

"Whenever we play in Toronto and industry people are watching us, our effects pedals screw up, our amps cut and we forget the words. But sometimes that's awesome," he says. "Like Rusty will accidentally kick over a monitor and will go right over to straighten it. But I'm just like, 'Leave it, that's awesome, that's what rock 'n' roll is all about.'"

"But by the time we get to Edmonton we'll be tight and our live show will be cleaned up," Penner says. "The Waking Eyes will be at its pinnacle. You guys are fortunate."



Lagwagon
Live in a Dive
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JAMES CATERALL
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Lagwagon's *Live in a Dive* may be closer to "true punk rock" than most of what is considered worthy of the genre today, but starting off with a slow one-man song, and expanding into stereotypical punk-rock thrashing, the CD lacks a single, interesting hook.

However, like many a live punk show, this recording is full of humorous dialogue.

And the performances definitely

prove that Lagwagon consists of some talented musicians.

But for all these strong points, the CD does nothing to excite the imagination or break down any stereotypes. Outside of a few impressive bass riffs and guitar highlights, there's very little to distinguish this record as exceptional.

The band has seven records, most averaging at around 35 minutes. The odd reggae interlude serves to ease the aural "band-scape," but this is not enough to make anyone but Lagwagon completists buy this album.



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Electra

Directed by Jonathan Christensen
Starring Clarice Eckford, Stephen Kent,
Mark Jenkins and Melissa Thingelstad
Timmins Centre
Now Playing

EDMON ROTEJA
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Don't be fooled: Studio Theatre's *Electra* has nothing to do with the recent Jennifer Garner movie of the same name. *Electra* is a contemporary retelling of Sophocles' famous Greek tragedy—a tale of a woman who wishes to avenge her father's death by killing her mother. Heavy stuff, and it's difficult to avoid being emotionally and intellectually engaged by this production.

Upon the play's opening, the audience is immediately confronted by a thought-provoking set. The stage is dressed in an abstract, brown backdrop full of large tears and featuring a spiral staircase. It seems simplistic and boring, but as the play progresses it stimulates the audience's imagination. From a simple backdrop, the audience can conjure images of the outside of a palace, a courtyard or even a graveyard—any place the story goes. But more importantly, the stage represents *Electra*'s tormented soul. *Electra* is overwhelmed by emotional suffering, as her father Agamemnon has been murdered by her mother Clytemnestra.

But *Electra*'s state of mind isn't only reflected by the bleak and tattered set. The play's chorus repeatedly reminds the audience of *Electra*'s contemplation of avenging her father. The chorus members are as frightening as *Electra*'s murderous thoughts, wearing grey costumes and face-paint that gives them a captivating, ghostly appearance.

The costumes are all similarly interesting, fashioned in a gothic/Victorian style typical of a Tim Burton film. Clytemnestra's evil fairy godmother-like costume alludes to the extravagance of a conniving older woman; both the costume and actress



EAT YOUR HEART OUT, JENNIFER GARNER Studio Theatre's *Electra*.

Melissa Thingelstad's performance effectively convey a Cruella DeVil-like quality. The long coat and stovepipe hat of Clytemnestra's conspiring lover Aegisthus (Stephen Kent) add to the character's statesman-like attitude.

The costumes only accentuate the play's electrifying performances—both dramatic and musical. The entire cast delivers many upbeat singing performances that illustrate the play's emotional content. Singers of note include Orestes' silent servant, Pythades (James Howard) and *Electra* herself (Clarice Eckford).

The singing is complemented by the play's ominous cinematic soundtrack that contributes to the play's emotional and supernatural atmosphere. With

the chorus representing the many conflicting voices within *Electra*'s psyche while ethereal ambient noise is played in the background, it feels as though *Electra* is on the brink of insanity. Sound effects also help to illustrate the subtle movements of the characters. In one scene, a new musical note is struck every time a chorus member takes a step across the stage, making the play animated.

Through such inventive use of sound and design—not to mention the play's commendable performances—Studio Theatre's interpretation of *Electra* does the unthinkable: it makes the audience enjoy being immersed in the twisted mind of a woman obsessed with revenge.

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MARK WOYTUK
Arts & Entertainment Writer

If classical music were a car, it would be a Rolls Royce: a shiny, black status symbol in which the rich take refuge from the busy world outside. Guitar virtuoso Eliot Fisk says this is precisely the problem with the historic genre. "Basically we've got this Rolls Royce product which is this 'art music' and we're selling it at Chevy prices, and sometimes we're having trouble selling it," he says.

For Fisk, part of this problem is the fault of overly conservative classical musicians; he says too many of them aren't in contact with what's happening in the real world. But Fisk has a solution: stop calling "classical music" classical.

"Basically we've got this Rolls Royce product which is this 'art music,' and we're selling it at Chevy prices, and sometimes we're having trouble selling it."

ELIOT FISK, GUITARIST

"I prefer the word 'art music,' which leaves one open to be able to embrace flamenco or great jazz or great Indian music or the many masters of many kinds of music that we're now more and more aware of," he says.



Fisk's attitude, though, represents a much higher goal than just making classical music more accessible to the mainstream.

"As the world gets more and more global economically, we will have wonderfully interesting new hybrids of cross-pollination and cross-fertilization between different cultures, and that's all part of getting out the message of music being the language of the family of mankind and pointing the way away from these horrible sectarian wars that still go on all over the planet."

And the way Fisk spreads the "message of music" is by teaching.

"I'd love to reach a humungous international audience teaching. I'd love to be beamed all over the planet to whoever wants to tune in. ... But

there is still an element to this that is best done in person in that small, ancient way. The reason that I put a lot of energy into teaching is that it's through intense one-on-one contact that you can indirectly motivate young people to go out and change the world."

Classical music shouldn't be a Rolls Royce, but according to Fisk it is a vehicle for enlightenment and societal change. His vision is grand but his practical goals are simple. "Most artists tend to despair about our present crazy government, but we have to just think positively and try to channel energy, not into complaining and moping and waiting away about things, but let's just get down to work and let's work and let's do it—that's what I try to do."

20 October 2004 Mario Kleuger

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A century of success for hockey Pandas

JAKE TROUGHTON
Sports Editor

Anyone who's said that long winning streaks lead teams to sloppiness is faced with one enormous counter-example in the Pandas hockey team.

As the team's incredible unbeaten streak—the longest ever in any CIS sport—stretched to one game shy of 100 over the weekend, the wins seemed to be coming just as easily as ever.

The Pandas were at their dominant best, slaughtering the visiting UBC Thunderbirds 7-1 and 9-2 at Clare Drake Arena on Friday and Saturday and outshooting the T-Birds 122-17 in the process. The wins capped off a second-straight perfect regular season for the Pandas (20-0) and fourth-straight unbeaten season. In 99 games since a playoff loss to the Regina Cougars on 17 February, 2001, the team's lone blemish was a 3-3 tie against the Lethbridge Pronghorns on 25 January, 2003. Now, as the team prepares to open the Canada West playoffs on Friday against the Pronghorns, they're ready to make the streak an even 100.

"Ninety-nine seems like a funny place to stop," said first-year Pandas centre Jen Newton, who had a goal and an assist against UBC. "I guess we've got to wait for the first game of the playoffs to get to 100, and then keep going from there."

While 100 games is essentially just a number that pales in importance compared to winning playoff games and national championships, the Pandas admitted that they're savouring the approach to the milestone.

"I think I'd be lying if I said that I didn't want it," said head coach Howie Draper. "Right at the start of the year, at the back of my mind—we didn't talk about it, but it was becoming a personal goal for me."

"Going through the years you never really think about it, but once you get close to a milestone like 100 you start to think about it a little more often," added fifth-year forward Adi VanderZalm, who had four goals and one assist against the Thunderbirds. "Right now we're focusing on playoffs and winning down the road, but ten years from now it'll be a great thing



A SHOT AT HISTORY Pandas forward Adi VanderZalm crashes the UBC net as her team inches toward a 100-game unbeaten streak.

JAMES LEUNG

to look back on and say you were a part of."

The Pandas seem to be playing as well they have at any point during the streak, but they insist that that doesn't mean the wins have been coming easily.

"We're under a lot of pressure as we get to the 100 mark," said VanderZalm. "You don't want to screw up. I think you get more nervous and feel more pressure than if you lose a game here and there."

Pandas assistant coach Judy Diduck, who was with the team as a player through the first three years of the streak before moving behind the

bench this season, echoed VanderZalm's sentiments, even going so far as to suggest that her Golden Bears counterparts are onto something with three losses this year after an unbeaten regular season last year.

"You just don't want to lose the streak at the wrong time. See, the Bears are doing it the right way; they're getting rid of all that stuff," she said with a laugh.

The Pronghorns may not have a strong chance of breaking the streak before it reaches 100 on Friday night, but they'll have a chance nonetheless, and with one of Canada West's two national

championship berths on the line, they'll certainly be giving it their best shot.

"They're going to have an opportunity to earn a spot at nationals, so the semifinal is very important," said Draper. "They're going to be playing better than they have against us to this point."

This weekend's best-of-three conference semifinal is scheduled for 7pm Friday and Saturday, with game three at 2pm Sunday if necessary. If the Pandas win, they'll host the winner of the other semifinal between Regina and Manitoba, in the conference championship a week later.

Hockey Bears start slow but finish with bang against UBC

ROSS PRIJAKOWSKI
Sports Writer

While lovers all over the world were just going through the motions this Valentine's weekend, the Golden Bears and UBC Thunderbirds hockey teams were doing anything but, despite the fact that neither had much to fight for in the standings.

While the Bears were 26 points ahead in the standings, the teams entered the weekend sporting an identical 5-2-1 record in the new year, and UBC looked up to the challenge on Friday when they took a 3-0 lead in the first period.

It seemed like the Bears were destined to end another long streak—a 33-game unbeaten stretch against UBC dating back to 1998/99. But it was not to be as, led by second-year forward Tim Krymusa's two goals, the Bears rallied to score four unanswered goals and capture a 4-3 victory.

"UBC has a pretty good team; we knew that coming in. But until you see it first-hand you probably don't appreciate the wisdom," Bears head coach Rob Daum said after the game. "They battled us hard and they did exactly what they wanted to do; they got a three-goal lead... it probably came a little too early for them, because there was still a lot of game left for us to come back."

"We're devastated," said UBC head coach Milan Dragicevic. "How many times does a team come in here up 3-0 after the first period? Maybe that's never happened; I don't know. When you let that

slip away it plays with your mind."

It seemed that the devastation loitered around for the Saturday game: from the opening face-off UBC was seriously outplayed by the Bears, resulting in the Thunderbirds spending a lot of time perched in the penalty box. The top-ranked power-play unit in CIS was quick to capitalize: Krymusa picked up two of the four Bears' power-play goals to end the weekend with five points as the Bears romped their way to a 7-1 victory to sweep the season series.

"They've got so many weapons and they beat you in so many ways, and when their power play goes four for twelve you can't counter that," said Dragicevic. "We were undisciplined [Saturday]; we shot ourselves in the foot [Friday] by squandering a three-goal lead and [Saturday] we shot ourselves in the foot by taking some bad penalties."

The strong overall play of his team from the drop of the puck to the final buzzer impressed Daum, as did the strong performance from Krymusa, who put up 65 points just two seasons ago in his last season in the WHL.

"When you're down by three you need to score, and for Tim to come and get those goals for us was a big part of the win [Friday]," said Daum. "He's been better offensively of late and that's what he does; he's a goal scorer. We needed those goals and he was there to get them for us."

Limping home from the weekend without gaining any points, UBC was already looking ahead to the playoffs and the prospect of facing



I'M OPEN Golden Bears left-winger Scott Henkleman escapes the UBC Thunderbirds' pursuit.

NICK WIEBE

the Bears again. Despite the fact his team hasn't beaten the Bears in 35 games, Dragicevic wasn't worried about the Bears having a psychological advantage.

"I think you're seeing less and less of the 'Bear mystique' playing a factor for teams," said Dragicevic. "This year, with Saskatchewan

beating them and them having a couple ties and a loss against Calgary, I think the mystique has been reduced; teams are coming here and they're not saying 'Wow' anymore. Sure, everybody respects them, but in the playoffs anything can happen. They are a great hockey team, but they're not invincible."

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Swim team prepares to host CIS championships

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Writer

There may not be any official perks to hosting this year's CIS finals, but the U of A swim team is nonetheless looking forward to the championships, which will be held at Edmonton's Kinsmen Sports Centre at the end of the month.

"I'm kind of excited about having it at home, especially since it's my last one," said Bears captain Borrey Kim, who has attended CIS finals before but will graduate after this year's edition. "I think it'll get me motivated."

The Bears and Pandas are sending ten swimmers to the meet—unlike team sports where the nationals host gets an automatic berth, all swimmers had to qualify for this meet—and they're eager to compete at a national level.

"Nationals are a lot different than other meets," said Kim. "It's really high energy; a lot of fast swims. Normally they're held at universities, and it's really compact, so you get a feeling of a packed house. This one's at Kinsmen, and it'll be different because it's a little bit larger."

The Pandas and Bears are optimistic about their chances, but realistic. Because they're sending so few athletes, it will be difficult to accumulate enough team points to be competitive in the overall standings.

They do expect to perform well in some of the individual events, though, with a few athletes in particular looking very promising.

"We have a strong men's relay squad, that's probably one group to watch, and we have some swimmers that should make it into finals if they

swim well," said head coach Sam Montgomery.

"Top among those will be Elsa van Goudoever; she's poised to set the University of Alberta record in the 200m individual medley. And she's already broken the 50m freestyle record this year, so we hope to see her repeat that," Montgomery added. "She's probably one of our top medal hopes."

Mike Vanden Ham, who will also be competing, thinks the Bears' relay team stands a strong chance.

"I'm feeling good about the relay. Each guy swimming so far has qualified in one specific stroke, so our medley should be really strong."

Everyone anticipates that the competition at the event will be very strong. The UBC Thunderbirds—seven-time defending national champions for both the men and women—and Calgary Dinos are expected to dominate: the two schools are currently ranked first and second in the country, respectively, for both women's and men's teams.

"Competition is always tough," Bear Jesse Claassen said. "UBC's right up there; they've got a guy who just got back from Athens. These are the guys we've got to compete against: we swim against Olympic-quality swimmers."

Montgomery still hopes Alberta will be able to make the top ten, though.

"I think definitely we're going to have good swims. I don't think anyone's going to swim poorly, but I just wish we had twice as many swimmers going."

"I think everybody's going to do really well," Panda Nicole Schnapp agreed. "We've been training hard, so everyone should put up some good performances. The other teams are tough, but we'll put up a good fight."

Hoops Bears finish third

CHRIS O'LEARY
Sports Writer

After a weekend split on the coast to end their regular season, the Golden Bears basketball team will take to the road once again this coming weekend as they begin their quest for a national championship.

The Bears finished third in the Central Division after splitting two games; they dropped an 88-82 decision to SFU on Friday, then outlasted Trinity Western 94-90 in double overtime on Saturday night.

Highway 2 will now become the road to redemption as the Bears look to advance past the Calgary Dinos, who handed them two lopsided losses a month ago. The Bears are looking forward to the opportunity to meet their rivals to the south once again, and are confident that they'll give the Dinos a better game this time around.

"I'm feeling very good about it. We're a totally different team than we were a month ago," head coach Don Horwood said. "We're more consistent. Scott Gordon and Phil Sudol are playing better, and Mike Melnychuk seems to have his excitement back to play. We're going in there, I think, the best we've been all year and I'm excited about our opportunity."

The first two games of the best-of-three series will take place Friday and Saturday in Calgary, with game three, if necessary, Sunday afternoon. The winner of the series will play division leader Saskatchewan the following weekend in Saskatoon.

Hoops Pandas miss playoffs

PAUL OWEN
Sports Writer

Despite winning nine of their last 14 games, the Pandas basketball team couldn't overcome a 0-6 start to their season and were eliminated from the playoffs thanks to Calgary's upset victory over the Regina Cougars on Saturday night.

For the Pandas, the knowledge that this was merely a growing year with seven rookies on their roster didn't soften the blow of being eliminated from the playoffs on the final day of the regular season.


"It's frustrating for the girls, and it's frustrating for us as coaches," said assistant coach Cathy Butlin. "I think we've definitely improved since last year, but it doesn't seem like it because we're not in the playoffs."

The Pandas are still optimistic about their chances for the future with such a young roster, a factor they know hurt them this season.

"All our first-year [athletes] have had their introduction to university basketball and we have so many great players that are learning and growing and they are going to be even better," said second-year guard Carly McLennan.

Butlin also felt leadership would be a key to the next season.

"I think we're going to miss the leadership of the older players and I'm interested to see who will step up next year and assume that leadership role, because we are a little bit younger," she said.



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Volleyball Bears end home season with sweep of Spartans

ANDREW RENFREE
Sports Writer

It was a bittersweet weekend for veteran Bears volleyball players Aaron Schulha and Jeremy King. The top-ranked Bears posted two straight-set victories over their second-ranked rivals from Trinity Western, but the matches also marked the last time that Schulha and King would play in front of a home crowd at the University of Alberta's Main Gym.

The matches between the best volleyball squads in the country were expected to be some of the most exciting of the season, but did not quite live up to the hype. The Spartans (14-6) were no match for the powerful Bears (19-1), losing 3-0 on both Friday (25-22, 25-21, 25-20) and Saturday (25-23, 25-18, and 25-21). While the on-court performance lacked the drama of a collision between the top teams in the country, there was plenty of emotion after the games as teammates, coaches, parents, and fans bid farewell to two outstanding graduating volleyball players.

After Friday's game, Bears head coach Terry Danyluk recognized King and Schulha for the presence they've had on the Bears roster over the years, calling them "the lifeblood" of Alberta's lineup before a standing ovation from the crowd.

"[Aaron and Jeremy are] both great individuals. They contribute to our team way more than just on the volleyball side," said Danyluk. "They're two athletes that in their time with us I've never had anything but respect for."

It was also emotional for the Schulha and King families as they watched their sons play their last sets in U of A uniforms. Dale Schulha, Aaron's father and himself a former Bears football player and U of A athletics director, also spoke to the crowd Friday night.

"We are very proud of Jeremy and Aaron, of their dedication to the sport that they love, and for their many accomplishments on the court and in the classroom," said Dale Schulha. "As parents, we feel very fortunate for our sons to have the opportunity ... to play for the best men's volleyball program in the country."

"Anything less than a national championship will be a disappointment with the team that we have."

GOLDEN BEAR AARON SCHULHA

With the emotion of the weekend and a near-perfect regular season behind them, the Bears are now focused on the playoffs and bringing home a national championship from the CIS finals, held in Québec City next month. Last year the Bears finished second to the Saskatchewan Huskies in a five-set battle that saw the Huskies capture the gold medal with a 16-14 win in the final set.

"This [was] a league weekend that didn't mean anything, and playoffs are a whole different story," Danyluk said. "We've got a good team and I think if



KILLER The Bears' Leo Carroll attempts a kill against the Spartans.

our team plays really well someone's got to be really good to beat us; that's my opinion."

The players share the focus on improving upon last year's disappointing silver-medal finish. Perhaps Aaron Schulha summed up the feelings of his teammates best: "Anything less than a national championship will be a disappointment with the team that we have."

By virtue of finishing first in the Mountain Division, the Bears have earned a bye to the Canada West Final Four, which will be held in Saskatoon on 25 and 26 February. Because the conference has four berths at the national championships, the Bears have also secured their place there.

NHL season dies with a whimper

ROSS
PRUSAKOWSKI



Sports
Commentary

Like a zombie in some low-grade horror movie, it just wouldn't die—even after an armory of ammunition and more stab wounds than your average Edmonton bar patron. But alas, in all cheesy horror movies the writers eventually run out of zany plot twists and eventually have to kill the zombies and end the film—just like the NHL's owners have to do now to the zombie that is the prospect of a 15-game season.

There have been numerous reasons to do the deed throughout the lockout, but at this point the owners don't have a choice. The overwhelming indifference of even the most passionate hockey fans dealt the last blow, because even these everyday fans have begun to move on and have started looking for other sports to follow. And it's about fucking time, too, because around the world and even in our own backyard there is a pool of fascinating and entertaining sports that we Canadians haven't even dipped our toes into. The big winter bonanza that was NHL hockey clouded our vision of the other winter sports that Canada is just as good at, and that are more entertaining than the trap-fest professional hockey has become. From figure skating to sliding sports, freestyle skiing and speed skating, this winter has seen Canadians excel in events that are usually overlooked or overshadowed because of the NHL season.

Now, instead of being only that obscure "good Canadian bobsledder or skier" who gets placed centre stage every four years at the Olympics, athletes like bobsledder Pierre Lueders and skier Thomas Grandt (competing mostly in Europe) are big stories. Their devotion to their sports—for a minuscule fraction of what an NHLer makes—and their successes are drawing new fans and

attention to their sports. And rightly so.

It's not just amateur sports a world away that are cultivating a group of new fans, though. While the increase in attendance hasn't been the deluge that many anticipated, a growing number of people are being exposed to the high calibre of play and the high level of entertainment that goes along with university sport. Each sport boasts its own rivalries, and rarely do the games see a half-hearted effort from the teams, because even the best teams get knocked off if they get careless.

The lockout and the largely indifferent reaction to it have shown that people are fed up with arrogant players and their bitching about their astronomical salaries.

However, it's not only competition and entertainment that are earning both university and other amateur sports a new fan base: it's the money and egos involved—or rather the lack of them. The lockout and the largely indifferent reaction to it have shown that people are fed up with arrogant players and their bitching about their astronomical salaries. Watching people play for the love of the sport—or for the reputation of their school or country—has once again become a value worth cheering for, while cheering for the number of zeroes in the paycheck has become as archaic as it is downright retarded.

With the lockout, NHL hockey is falling off the map, even in Canada—where it is supposedly akin to the state religion. As former NHLer (and current federal cabinet minister) Ken Dryden eloquently pointed out last week, in recent years "hockey was more of a habit than a passion"—words that could well become the epitaph for the NHL as fans whose eyes have been opened to the endless sporting possibilities may just decide not to come back when and if the lockout ends.

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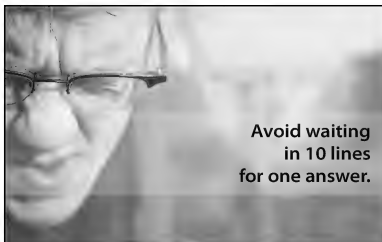
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Volleyball Pandas end year with sweep

ANDREW RENFREE
Sports Writer

A summary of the Pandas volleyball regular season goes something like this: win a few matches, lose a few matches, and then win a few more. The good news is that the Pandas were able to finish their cyclical season on a high note this weekend with two wins over the Trinity Western Spartans. The bad news is that it was the last time several of Alberta's athletes would play in front of a home crowd at the Main Gym.

There were times during Friday and Saturday night's matches that all six Pandas on the court were either in their final year of CIS eligibility or will be graduating from their academic programs at the University after this season. Larissa Cundy, Chelsea Grimson, Melanie Masson, and captain Pamela Parker are all in their fifth and final year of eligibility, while fourth-year players Kristin Van Eck and perennial Pandas kill leader Tawana Wardlaw are graduating later this year and, depending on whether they pursue further academic interests, may not suit up for the Pandas in their last year of eligibility.

"It was an emotional night, being our last weekend," said a tearful Parker after Friday's match. "Right now our entire starting line is pretty much fourth- and fifth-year players,

so there's a real veteran feel on the court. A lot of us have been together the whole time and gone through a lot together, so it's really emotional."

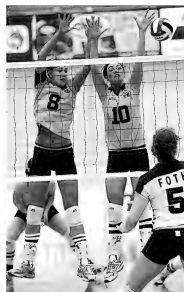
Nevertheless, the emotion of the weekend didn't cause the fourth-ranked Pandas (13-7) to falter on the court. The tenth-ranked Spartans (8-12) won the first set on Friday night by a score of 25-17, but the Pandas rallied to win the next three 25-20, 25-22, and 25-15 to claim the victory. On Saturday the Pandas won in four sets (25-23, 21-25, 25-18, and 25-14).

Before Friday's match, the coaching staff presented the departing players with some action photos to commemorate their experience as Pandas. The current core of veterans joined the team in rebuilding years; however, the last two seasons the Pandas have won the Canada West championship and head coach Laurie Eisler was named CIS coach of the year. Eisler said his veteran players have had an impact.

"I know their eyes are set on [a national championship]. It would be a great way to go out, but I think they've accomplished so much already by rebuilding our program and I really applaud their efforts," said Eisler.

In last year's CIS final, Alberta lost in four sets to the Calgary Dinos, and they're hoping to avenge that loss in the playoffs this year.

"From here on in, every time we



THE WALL The Pandas go for a block.

contact the ball matters because our time is so limited. It's really about our preparation now to get as far as we can in the post-season," Parker said.

This weekend, the Pandas will travel to Winnipeg for a quarter-final playoff series against the Winnipeg Wesmen (15-5). The winner will advance to the conference Final Four, while the loser will likely earn a wild card berth. The top three finishers at the Final Four will advance to the national championship 3-5 March in Saskatoon.

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THE ROAD TO REGINA The Golden Bears and Pandas track teams saw their last home action of the year over the weekend at the High Performance Meet, in preparation for the Canada West Finals on 25 and 26 February in Regina.

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VARSITY STATS

Men's Hockey

Canada West standings

Mountain Division

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	P
2-Alberta	26	22	3	1	133	55	45
x-Calgary	26	11	10	5	101	83	27
x-UBC	26	5	16	5	71	111	15
Lethbridge	26	2	21	2	64	146	8

Great Plains Division

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	P
Saskatchewan	26	17	6	3	109	75	37
x-Manitoba	26	15	6	5	98	67	35
x-Regina	28	6	17	5	77	114	17

x-Clinched playoff spot (top six overall qualify)

z-Clinched first place overall

Results

Friday

UBC 3 Alberta 4

Regina 2 Saskatchewan 7

Lethbridge 1 Calgary 8

Saturday

UBC 1 Alberta 7

Saskatchewan 2 Regina 3

Calgary 10 Lethbridge 2

CIS top ten (last week)

1. Alberta (1)	6. Lakehead (6)
2. Saskatchewan (2)	7. UOIT (7)
3. Manitoba (3)	8. Acadia (8)
4. Moncton (4)	9. Saint Mary's (9)
5. Western (5)	10. McGill (10)

Women's Hockey

Canada West standings

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	P
y-Alberta	20	20	0	0	121	15	40
x-Regina	20	11	8	1	64	55	23
x-Manitoba	20	7	11	2	41	56	16
x-Lethbridge	20	5	10	5	42	65	15
Saskatchewan	20	6	12	2	42	65	14
UBC	20	5	13	2	36	76	12

x-Clinched playoff spot (top four qualify)

y-Clinched first place

Results

Friday

UBC 1 Alberta 7

Lethbridge 3 Manitoba 3

Saskatchewan 2 Regina 3

Saturday

UBC 2 Alberta 9

Lethbridge 4 Manitoba 0

Regina 2 Saskatchewan 3

End of regular season

CIS top ten (last week)

1. Alberta (1)	15. Regina (7)
2. Laurier (2)	7. McGill (6)
3. Concordia (3)	18. Brock (8)
4. Guelph (4)	18. Toronto (10)
15. St. FX (5)	19. Ottawa (8)
	20. Saint Mary's (NR)

SPORTS SHORTS

Wrestling

The tenth-ranked Golden Bears and fourth-ranked Pandas travel to Calgary this weekend for the Canada West championship. The Alberta contingent is led by fifth-year Panda Heidi Kukak, who has amassed an impressive 27-1 record this season. The Bears are the fifth-ranked team among Canada West schools, while the Pandas are third-ranked in the conference. Matches will be held Friday and Saturday.

Hockey

The Saskatchewan Huskies women's team, which advanced to the national championship last season, was elimi-

Women's Basketball

Canada West standings

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	P
y-Simon Fraser	20	20	0	0	1467	1051	40
x-Winnipeg	20	17	3	0	1456	1119	34
x-Regina	20	12	8	0	1289	1220	24
x-UBC	20	12	8	0	1298	1134	24
y-Saskatchewan	20	11	9	0	1451	1342	22
x-Manitoba	20	11	9	0	1472	1312	22
x-Victoria	20	10	10	0	1214	1172	20
x-Calgary	20	9	11	0	1275	1274	18
Regina	20	9	11	0	1312	1427	18
Lethbridge	20	8	12	0	1274	1414	16
Trinity Western	20	9	11	0	1074	1376	2
Brandon	20	0	20	0	831	1671	0

x-Clinched playoff spot (top eight qualify)

y-Clinched first place

Results

Friday

Alberta 47 Simon Fraser 92

Brandon 39 Calgary 67

Saskatchewan 69 Trinity Western 65

Regina 57 Lethbridge 59

Victoria 55 Winnipeg 63

UBC 73 Manitoba 62

Saturday

Alberta 74 Trinity Western 65

Regina 64 Calgary 72

Saskatchewan 71 Simon Fraser 80

Brandon 42 Lethbridge 104

Victoria 56 Manitoba 62

UBC 61 Winnipeg 77

End of regular season

Men's Volleyball

Canada West standings

Mountain Division

Team	MP	W	L	GW	GL	P
2-Alberta	20	19	1	59	14	38
x-TVU	20	14	6	48	30	28
x-UBC	20	10	10	39	37	20
Calgary	20	6	14	22	47	12

Great Plains Division

Team	MP	W	L	GW	GL	P
y-Saskatchewan	20	14	6	51	25	28
x-Manitoba	20	10	10	40	45	20
x-Winnipeg	20	7	13	31	48	14
Regina	20	0	20	8	60	0

x-Clinched playoff spot (top three in each division qualify)

y-Clinched first place in division

z-Clinched first place overall

Results

Friday

Trinity Western 0 Alberta 3

UBC 3 Calgary 0

Winnipeg 1 Saskatchewan 3

Manitoba 3 Regina 0

Saturday

Trinity Western 0 Alberta 3

UBC 3 Calgary 1

Winnipeg 0 Saskatchewan 3

Manitoba 3 Regina 0

End of regular season

Women's Volleyball

The UBC Thunderbirds women swept the Winnipeg Wesmen in two matches

Men's Basketball

Canada West standings

Central Division

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	P
y-Saskatchewan	20	13	7	0	1630	1596	26
x-Calgary	20	12	8	0	1576	1431	24
x-Alberta	20	12	8	0	1500	1464	24
Lethbridge	20	8	12	0	1495	1590	16

Pacific Division

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	P
y-Victoria	20	14	6	0	1514	1421	28
x-UBC	20	11	9	0	1563	1421	22
x-Simon Fraser	20	9	11	0	1546	1557	18
Trinity Western	20	6	14	0	1423	1605	12

Great Plains Division

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	P
y-Brandon	20	15	5	0	1605	1464	30
x-Regina	20	11	9	0	1549	1570	22
x-Winnipeg	20	6	14	0	1546	1602	12
Manitoba	20	3	17	0	1369	1593	6

x-Clinched playoff spot (top three in each division qualify)

y-Clinched first place in division

Results

Friday

Alberta 82 Simon Fraser 88

Brandon 71 Calgary 67

Saskatchewan 86 Trinity Western 78

Regina 70 Lethbridge 83

Victoria 73 Winnipeg 67

UBC 67 Manitoba 64

Saturday

Alberta 94 Trinity Western 90

Regina 67 Calgary 85

Saskatchewan 81 Simon Fraser 77

Brandon 79 Lethbridge 88

Victoria 80 Manitoba 85

UBC 81 Winnipeg 85

End of regular season

Women's Volleyball

Canada West standings

Team	MP	W	L	GW	GL	P
y-Calgary	20	20	0	60	19	40
x-UBC	20	17	3	54	19	34
x-Winnipeg	20	15	5	51	23	30
x-Alberta	20	13	7	49	27	26
x-Regina	20	9	11	32	38	18
x-TVU	20	8	12	36	45	16
Manitoba	20	4	16	20	51	8
Simon Fraser	20	2	18	21	57	4
Saskatchewan	20	2	18	12	57	4

x-Clinched playoff spot (top six qualify)

y-Clinched first place

Results

Friday

Trinity Western 1 Alberta 3

Winnipeg 1 UBC 3

Simon Fraser 1 Saskatchewan 3

Manitoba 2 Regina 3

Saturday

Trinity Western 1 Alberta 3

Winnipeg 1 UBC 3

Simon Fraser 3 Saskatchewan 1

Manitoba 0 Regina 3

End of regular season

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IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

- Please submit only single sided documents. We thank everyone who applies, however ONLY shortlisted applicants will be notified.
- Please be available for the noted interview time.
- Applicants must be undergraduate students and have paid full Students' Union fees.
- Positions subject to Council ratification and signing of employment contract.

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC

Reports to the VP Academic. Assists and reports on various academic issues – coordinating projects related to academic affairs. Represent the VP Academic and serve as the resource person for the AAB, GFCSC and student reps on University committees. This position requires a minimum of 20 hours per week in office time.

Remuneration: \$1098/month May-August

\$961/month September-April

For further information contact the VP Academic.

Interviews scheduled for Tuesday, March 29, starting at 5:00 pm.

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL

Reports to the VP External. Assists with organization of on and off-campus events designed to introduce members of the community and prospective students to the Students' Union and the U of A. Minimum of 20 hours per week in office time required.

Remuneration: \$1098/month May-August

\$961/month September-April

For further information contact the VP External.

Interviews scheduled for Tuesday, March 29, starting at 5:00 pm.

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT STUDENT LIFE

Reports to the VP Student Life. Assists with the programming and the volunteer management components of the VP Student Life's portfolio. Minimum of 20 hours per week in office time required.

Remuneration: \$1098/month May-August

\$961/month September-April

For further information contact the VP Student Life.

Interviews scheduled for Wednesday, March 30, starting at 5:00 pm.

SPEAKER OF STUDENTS' COUNCIL

Reports to Students' Council. Chairs all meetings of Students' Council in accordance with Roerts' Rules of Order and the Standing Orders of Students' Council. Position currently under review.

Remuneration: \$135.00/meeting

Interviews scheduled for Thursday, March 31, starting at 7:00 pm.

APPLICATIONS FOR THIS POSITION MUST BE MADE ON THE SEPARATE APPLICATION TITLED "SPEAKER APPLICATION".

CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER

Reports to the President of the Students' Union and oversees all electoral logistics. Must be familiar with election process and bylaws. Excellent project management skills are required to succeed in this position.

Remuneration: \$3744.00 flat fee

For further information contact the President.

Interviews scheduled for Thursday, March 31, starting at 5:00 pm.

ECOS (Environmental Coordination Office of Students) DIRECTOR*

Reports to the Manager Student Services. The Director of ECOS is responsible for researching, developing and implementing environmental programs for the Students' Union on Campus.

Remuneration: \$1333/month

For further information contact the Manager of Student Services at 492-4236.

Interviews scheduled for Monday, March 21, starting at 4:00 pm.

INFORMATION SERVICES DIRECTOR*

Reports to the Manager Student Services. Responsible for overseeing all aspects of the service, including various online listing services and five information desks. The Director will also work with and provide support and direction to the Associate Directors of the service and manage, train and evaluate hourly staff.

Remuneration: \$1406/month

For further information contact the Manager of Student Services at 492-4236.

Interviews scheduled for Thursday, March 24, starting at 5:00 pm.

OMBUD SERVICE DIRECTOR*

Reports to the Manager Student Services. Must possess strong listening skills and be an effective mediator. Must be familiar with University and Students' Union grievance and appeal procedures, and will represent and advise students on such matters.

Remuneration: \$1318/month

Term: This position requires a two-year commitment.

For further information contact the Manager of Student Services at 492-4236.

Interviews scheduled for Thursday, March 24, starting at 6:30 pm.

SAFEGUARD DIRECTOR*

Reports to the Manager Student Services. Work with other units on campus to improve and promote safety. Excellent opportunity to develop volunteer management and administrative skills.

Remuneration: \$1346/month

For further information contact the Manager of Student Services at 492-4236.

Interviews scheduled for Monday, March 21, starting at 8:00 pm.

STUDENT DISTRESS CENTRE DIRECTOR*

Reports to the Manager Student Services. In conjunction with the Distress Line, offers peer counselling, crisis intervention and information/referral services to the campus community. Must have at least one year of comparable peer-counselling experience.

Remuneration: \$1346/month

For further information contact the Manager of Student Services at 492-4236.

Interviews scheduled for Tuesday, March 22, starting at 4:00 pm.

STUDENT GROUPS DIRECTOR*

Reports to the Manager Student Services. Organize and provide support to a diverse array of student groups as the Director of Student Groups. Provide administration and support to these groups.

Remuneration: \$1333/month

For further information contact the Manager of Student Services at 492-4236.

Interviews scheduled for Monday, March 21, starting at 6:00 pm.

CAMPUS FOOD BANK MANAGER*

Reports to the Campus Food Bank Board of Directors. Responsible for all aspects of the Campus Food Bank, including volunteer recruitment, training, etc.

Remuneration: \$1333/month

For further information contact the Manager of Student Services at 492-4236.

Interview Time TBA.

*All Director Positions Are 30 Hours Per Week

Volunteer Opportunities Boards & Committees



TERMS OF OFFICE: 1 May 2005 to 30 April 2006 (in most cases)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Monday, 14 March 2005, 5:00 pm NO EXCEPTIONS

Submit COMPLETE PACKAGE to 2-900 SUB

APPLICATION FORMS: Available at SU Reception Desk 2-900 SUB, and SUB, HUB, CAB, ETLIC Info Booths and Faculty Association Offices or online at www.su.ualberta.ca. Detailed information available at 2-900 SUB.

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

- Please submit only single sided documents. We thank everyone who applies, however ONLY shortlisted applicants will be notified.
- Please be available for the noted interview time.
- Applicants must be undergraduate students and have paid full Students' Union fees.

STUDENTS' UNION BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS BOARD

- makes recommendations to Students' Council on academic issues
- assists and advises the Vice-President Academic
- deals with activities relating to student awareness of academic issues
- administers Students' Union Awards

For further information contact the VP Academic

Lisa McLaughlin at 492-4236.

Interviews scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, after 5:00 pm.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BOARD

- creates and coordinates projects on campus concerning various issues of interest and concern

- assists and advises the Vice-President External

For further information contact the VP External

Alex Abboud at 492-4236.

Interviews scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, after 5:00 pm.

ADVOCACY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- deals with activities relating to advocacy on the U of A campus

- assists and advises the President

NOTE - this committee is currently under review

Interviews scheduled for Thursday, April 14, starting at 5:00 pm.

PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

- makes recommendations regarding SU entertainment events and programs

- assists and advises the Vice-President Student Life

For further information contact the VP Student Life

Duncan Taylor at 492-4236.

Interviews scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, after 5:00 pm.

STUDENT LIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- monitors and provides direction to Anit-Freeze and WOW Planning Committee

- assists and advises the Vice-President Student Life

For further information contact the VP Student Life

Duncan Taylor at 492-4236.

Interviews scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, after 5:00 pm.

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- requires 1 undergraduate student
- to recommend policy and serve as the focal point for consideration of policy issues to the University community

MEETS: At the call of the Chair

ONECARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- requires 1 undergraduate student to provide valuable feedback and guidance on all aspects of the current and future ONEcard operations.

MEETS: At the call of the Chair

For further information on Standing Committees contact the VP Academic

Lisa McLaughlin at 492-4236.

Interviews scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, after 5:00 pm.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA SENATE

- requires 4 undergraduate students appointed by the Students' Union
- the Senate's responsibility is to inquire into any matter that may enhance the image of the University and act as a link between the University and the public. The Senate may also authorize the conferring of Honorary Degrees.

MEETS: Four times yearly

For further information contact the VP External Alex Abboud at 492-4236

Interviews scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, after 5:00 pm.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

- assists and advises the VP External
- deals with activities relating to the general Edmonton community

For further information contact the VP External Alex Abboud at 492-4236

Interviews scheduled for Friday, April 15, after 5:00 pm.

A Different Way

"Once people try this type of construction, they absorb it and agree with it, and begin to recognize it as a concept, as a psychological departure from the idea that industry is somehow more sophisticated than nature."

—Bruce Millard, architect

For a month last summer I worked under a carpenter on a large housing project. There were four floors in the house I was working on, each at a different stage of development. The lowest floor had hardly been touched at all; it was a confusing gauntlet of wood jacks, studs, pillars and crossbeams. The second floor was another network of wood, but the plywood floors were now covered in two-inch-thick sheets of concrete; the third was filled with immense piles of paints, primers, and grouts, stacks of drywall 50 sheets thick, fiberglass tubs and fiberglass insulation. The fourth floor was almost finished. Hundreds of sheets of chemically treated drywall had been hung, hundreds of litres of toxic and impermeable paint had been applied, and dense pillows of glass had been inserted into all of the wood-framed walls.

The more I looked critically at our buildings, the more I came to realize that almost everything conceivable was wrong with them; the methods, the materials, and the product itself. Our buildings are garish energy pits, soulless, anonymous, toxic and permanent scabs on the land.

The building's exterior was made of a thick skin of plywood, covered over with plastics and fabricated stone panels. Tarred and chemically treated shingles covered its roof and littered the ground. Two dumpsters 20 feet long and eight feet high were filled with waste in mere days, emptied, and then refilled. The contractors were irritable and obsessed with speed. Waste and inefficiency abounded. I was appalled.

Still more appalling was the realization that all of our buildings are made in this manner, including our own homes. We satisfy the need for long-lasting materials and a comfortable environment not through good design and intelligent configuration, but by treating products with toxic preservatives and sealants, by burning large amounts of fossil fuels to regulate the interiors of our buildings, and by using prefabricated materials that encourage waste. In our search for strong and uniform building materials, we have taken to cutting down vast expanses of old-growth forest and using products which are extremely

energy intensive to create and which will not naturally decompose for thousands of years.

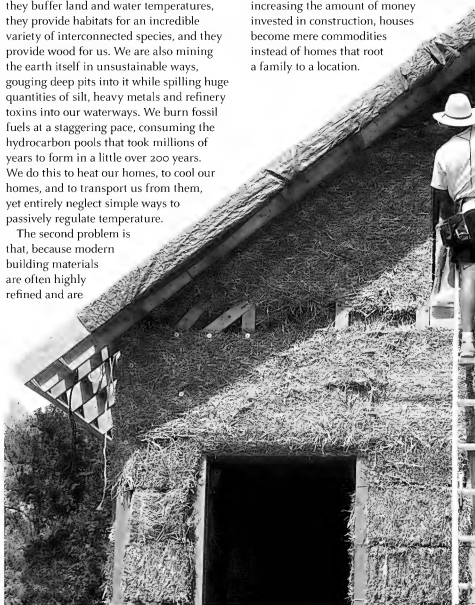
The more I looked critically at our buildings, the more I came to realize that almost everything conceivable was wrong with them; the methods, the materials, and the product itself. Our buildings are garish energy pits, soulless, anonymous, toxic and permanent scabs on the land.

There are three main problems with the manner in which we now build: first is that it is environmentally unsustainable; we are cutting our forests at an astonishing rate. Forests are the foundation upon which many complex ecosystems rest; they regulate and purify water flowing through rivers and through the ground, they stabilize and enrich vast tracts of topsoil, they buffer land and water temperatures, they provide habitats for an incredible variety of interconnected species, and they provide wood for us. We are also mining the earth itself in unsustainable ways, gouging deep pits into it while spilling huge quantities of silt, heavy metals and refinery toxins into our waterways. We burn fossil fuels at a staggering pace, consuming the hydrocarbon pools that took millions of years to form in a little over 200 years. We do this to heat our homes, to cool our homes, and to transport us from them, yet entirely neglect simple ways to passively regulate temperature.

The second problem is that, because modern building materials are often highly refined and are

transported great distances, and because specialized labour is often needed to combine them, housing has become prodigiously expensive. However, because many people see owning a home as a necessity, this places many people firmly into lifelong debt while eliminating others from the opportunity of owning a home altogether. Homelessness in industrialized nations is to some degree a by-product of our building methods.

The third problem with modern housing is less tangible, but no less real. By building houses using unfamiliar, machine-made products with straight edges, rigidly flat and uniform surfaces, and an abundance of right angles, rooms and whole houses feel alien and unnatural. By removing the owner from the building process while increasing the amount of money invested in construction, houses become mere commodities instead of homes that root a family to a location.



to Build

Feature by
Tim Peppin

Photos courtesy of
www.BuildingWithAwareness.com



The finished building looks much like a normal home with a more personal feel.

However, there is another way to build, one which does almost everything right. The buildings themselves are naturally efficient, they can be incredibly cheap, and they outperform many conventional materials as fire retardants, as insulators, as sound barriers, in their ability to bear loads and stresses, and in the feeling they give their inhabitants. They use natural, non-toxic, degradable, locally available materials, many of which are a surplus or by-product of other industries.

Almost all of the problems created by conventional building and housing techniques are solved, while providing people with housing that is cheaper to build and maintain, and more beautiful than almost anything available today. The broad title given to such methods is "natural building." Although there are many different types, I will focus on straw-bale building, as it is well suited to the seasonal variation of Canada.

A by-product of modern intensive agriculture is straw—staggering quantities of straw. Straw is the general term given to the hollow stalks of cereal grains such as oats or barley. A great deal of it is used as bedding for large animals, particularly horses and cattle, yet huge amounts of straw are burned or tilled under the soil every year, simply to be rid of it.

But straw, when compressed into bales, is an incredible insulator and muffler. Bale walls have an R-value (a measurement of a material's resistance to heat flow) of 29 to 34, while conventional walls packed with fiberglass insulation have an R-value of only 19. During tests at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee, a sample bale wall was chilled on one side to -18C while the other side was heated to 21C—it took two weeks for heat loss from the walls to become a steady flow.

When coated in a lime and clay plaster and kept dry, straw-bale houses become almost fire proof, incredibly strong, and yet so flexible that they can survive an earthquake. Because they are mechanically baled yet so readily available, they are cheap and of relatively uniform size, so they can be stacked like blocks to form thick, sturdy walls.

Yet because walls are hand-stacked and plastered, they become slightly irregular and deeply personal. By building with industrial and agricultural by-products, we help to return our energy and material

use to something loosely resembling a cycle; a gross approximation of the interconnectedness and efficiency of nature's nutrient- and energy-cycling, but still vastly superior to what we do at present.

There are simple ways to design a home so that it has very few fossil fuel and energy requirements. By orienting a house east to west, it will absorb less of the scorching summer sun through its walls and windows. By placing the majority of the home's windows on the south face with properly angled overhangs, the summer sun will not shine directly through the windows, reducing cooling costs, while the winter sun will, reducing heating costs.

There is another way to build, one which does almost everything right. The buildings themselves are naturally efficient, they can be incredibly cheap, and they outperform many conventional materials as fire retardants, as insulators, as sound barriers, in their ability to bear loads and stresses, and in the feeling they give their inhabitants.

By building with heavy bales and clay-based plasters, the house will also be incredibly well-insulated; straw bales resist heat flow almost twice as well as fiberglass insulation, and in some designs still more, because the bales are not interrupted by wooden support beams which conduct heat readily.

What's more, because the bales and plasters are heavy, they are wonderful thermal mass—they resist rapid changes in temperature, which stabilizes the home's interior. Deciduous trees can shade a house in the summer, yet after dropping their leaves will allow the full winter sun to fall on the house in the winter, while acting as a wind break year-round. Lastly, a small bay of solar panels (or a small windmill in gustier areas) can provide for much, if not all, of a home's energy requirements. These are such simple, elegant techniques, yet they are rarely—if ever—employed in modern construction.

The need for wood, concrete, drywall, plastics and manufactured paints is also reduced immensely or eliminated entirely in straw-bale building, thereby easing the burden we are placing on the Earth's resources now, and minimizing the amount of unsightly and non-degradable products that will be left in the future.

The second solution offered by natural construction is for the problem of cost. As mentioned before, because of the embodied energy, transportation and skill involved in modern high-speed construction, it is prodigiously expensive. Straw-bale homes, because they use surplus straw, and clay and earth from the building site itself, locally produced lime and relatively unskilled labour, have the potential to be much cheaper than conventional homes, while being many times more energy efficient, thereby saving money immediately and in the long run.

Lastly, because of the inherent imprecision when dealing with bales and plaster, and because they are such a malleable building material, walls, rooms and whole houses become unique and deeply personal, reflecting the builder's individual tastes and satisfying any particular architectural desires they might have.

What's more, because of the unspecialized and labour-intensive nature of straw-bale building, it lends itself easily to large bailing parties, or to work with close friends over several weeks, which can allow the owner to establish meaningful ties with neighbours and to solidify friendships with a tangible, collective project—and a lot of beer.

Building a home yourself can also lend a subtle feeling of belonging, helping to root you to the community in which you live, to reduce urban angst and alienation, and allowing you to take pride in who and what surrounds you.

Aside from these benefits, there is a still more exciting outcome of widely adopted natural building: architecture that varies with the colours, materials and weather conditions of different locations—vernacular architecture.

Perhaps the most depressing feature of modern housing is its uniformity: concrete monoliths and vinyl-sided eyecores dominate much of the developed world, and, increasingly, the developing world as well. Suburbs sprawl like a cancerous growth, each unit a replicated malignant cell. Many cultural and regional design features are lost in the race to standardize building

materials. Cities and towns become little more than dry replicas, made unique only by the robustness of their job markets, the prevailing languages spoken, and their local arts.

But if new construction began to use locally available materials, and if building were simple enough that every home owner could create their own home, each town would take on the characteristics of the environment which surrounds it and the people who inhabit it.

In a country such as Canada, which encompasses ten million square kilometres, contains hundreds or thousands of unique environmental systems and embraces cultures and people from around the world, the results could be astonishing. It would turn us not only into a world leader of environmentally sound building practices, but into the most fascinatingly diverse country in the world. The country as a whole would become a tourist destination, as varied and beautiful as its climates.

The naïve manner in which we build our homes and businesses must change, either out of foresight and choice now, or out of destruction and necessity in the future.

We cut down old growth forests while burning straw, we mine intensively while polluting our waterways, we try to cut carbon emissions and combat obesity while designing our neighbourhoods, our cities, our entire country, around the car. We are at present either foolishly optimistic about the Earth's capacity to absorb our abuse, or callously indifferent to it. Both stances lead to ruin.

Natural building offers us an opportunity to slow the damage, to reassess our place in the world, and to live more comfortably as human beings. We must not miss it.

For more information, these are some of the resources which I have found to be both helpful and inspiring:

- *The Art of Natural Building*—Joseph F Kennedy, Michael G Smith and Catherine Yancek
- *Serious Straw Bale: A Home Construction Guide for All Climates*—Paul Lacinski and Michel Bergeron
- *The Straw Bale House*—Athena Swentzell Steen, Bill Steen and David Bainbridge
- www.BuildingWithAwareness.com

CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad, please go to www.campusclassifieds.ca

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STOP PAYING RENT! Own your own home now. FREE list of homes available with no money down under \$900/month. FREE recorded message. Call now 1-866-815-0646 (ID#9051, Donna Strauss, Sutton Challenge).

BRAND NEW fully furnished 1-bedroom condo, 10024 Jasper Ave. Indoor access to LRT, 6 appliances, \$900/month, incl. all utilities and cable TV. Available monthly or long term. 907-5699 or 780/645-5699.

Single room in downtown apartment, 5 min

walk to LRT station. Share bathroom, living room and kitchen. \$335/50/month. Please call 953-0861.

Looking for a place? Check out www.rentingspaces.ca. Free to search and students can advertise for roommates for free. Revenues from our service go to support Students' Union services.

ROOMMATES WANTED! FUN furnished house (2 bedrooms avail) Garage, dishwasher, washer/dryer. \$450/month (incl. util), 30 min to U. No pets/non-smokers. 978-4863.

Newlyren'd 3-bdr/bm/steeze U of A \$590+ util. Also available: shared accoms upstairs. Mature students pref. 604-4-2032.

1-bedroom condo for immediate rent, 10024 Jasper Ave. Central LRT below building, bus stop outside bldg. Upgrades laminate floor, painted ceiling, venetian blind, 6 new appliance in house washer/

dryer. Higher floor faces river valley and Jasper Ave. Panoramic view. Easy reach to all facilities. You pay for heat, electric, cable and phone. Rent \$725+\$75 for heat and electric collected monthly in advance and adjusted every 3 months. Damage deposit \$500. No pets. Feb rent will be prorated. Call 429-4051 or 710-5821. Introduce a tenant on 6 month lease and get \$25 reward.

SERVICES

MA English Grad, near campus, will edit term papers, theses. \$20/hr. Call Helen 437-2475.

Ski and snowboard reading week tour to Fernie, Skifide Fernie and Castle Mtn. 21-24 Feb packages starting at \$289. Call today 489-7669.

Alexander Editing. Since 1992. \$20/hr. Essays, theses, resumes, admissions, web. 433-0741, nathan@interbaun.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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avail, great benefits. Seasonal or year-round. (719) 584-9999.

Great Student Summer Jobs. Work outdoors and have fun in a team environment. Make \$6k-9k. Call Jason 708-5027.

Hiring JOB SITE MANAGERS AND PAINTERS for May thru Aug. Training provided. Superior income, fun, great experience, work with other students. Deadline 23 Feb. Chris 905-3313.

Experienced, caring LIVE OUT nanny required to care for 6-mo old baby in Glenora area. Start early March. Excellent English, drivers license would be assets. Call 499-8173.

Stoll's on Whyte is now hiring energetic and outgoing students for the following positions: security, beer/but and bartending. Please e-mail resume with references to stollis@yahoo.com.

EMPLOYMENT - PART TIME

Got an hour? Be an in-school mentor! You can be matched with an elementary student in your choice of one of 50 Catholic and public schools in Edmonton, Parkland and Strathcona. Together you can read, keep a journal, play computer games or just hang-

out. You'll have a great time... and, it looks GREAT on your resume! Call Big Brothers Big Sisters today at 424-8181 or check us out online at www.bbbsedmonton.org.

Non-profit out-of-school care seeks creative persons to work with school-aged children. \$9-10/hr. Call Kerri-Lynn at 484-7622, fax 486-1791 or e-mail essac@telusplanet.net. Come join the FUN!

EARLS Bourbon WEM is hiring for all positions FIPT! Apply Now! Train during reading week! Apply on location at WEM!

WEEKEND CASHIER POSITIONS are available at various Hughes Petroleum locations in Edmonton and neighbouring areas. Minimum \$8/hr. will negotiate. Apply at any location or please e-mail resume to: office@hughespetroleum.com or fax to 444-1414.

PERSONALS

It's Party Time! Dial: 44-Party Ads "Iokes" Stories & MORE! Ladies-R-Free! Try It NOW! Apply on location at WEM!

Know an Jeff@McMaster doing OTT? Gout w/ him New Year's Eve @ Union Hall? E-mail Me:champagneignites@hotmail.com.

Fines for Food

February 27th to March 5th, 2005



Last year we distributed enough food to feed over 2200 people.

University of Alberta Libraries want to help.

From February 27th to March 5th, all library fines collected will be donated to the Campus Food Bank. Pay your library fines and help keep hunger off their plate.



For help or to help out: Lower level SUB (suite 0401), 492-8677 foodbank@su.ualberta.ca www.su.ualberta.ca/foodbank Confidentiality respected.

Thanks to the generous support of the SU and the GSA, 80% or more of monetary donations go to food relief.

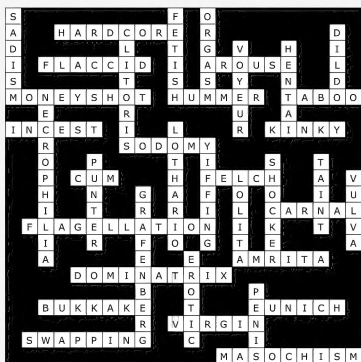
CROSSWORD

The 10 February crossword entitled *The Sexword* was compiled by Scott "Dr Sex" Bourgeois.

The next crossword will be in the Thursday, 3 March edition of the Gateway.

What do you guys want the next crossword subject to be? E-mail production@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway Crossword appears every Thursday, with solutions appearing the following Tuesday. The crossword answers are verified by an independent panel of Gateway editors and volunteers, proven by a series of ordeals to be infallible.



Information SERVICES

Past Exam Listings

Housing Listings

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Used Books

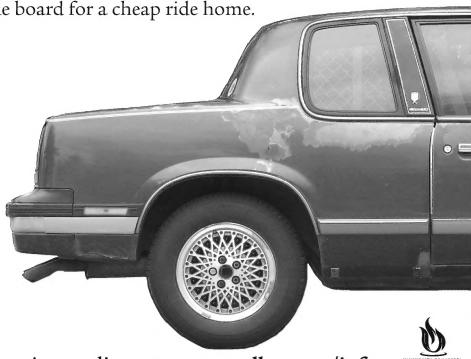
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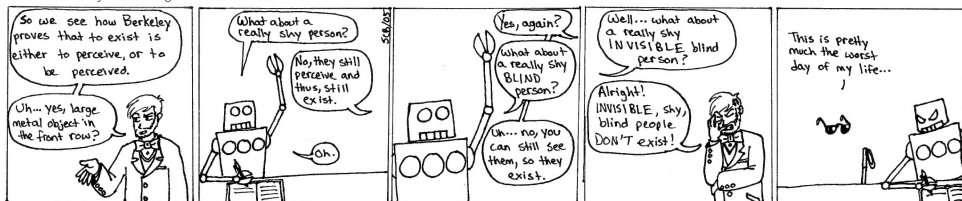
Use the on-line car pool and ride board for a cheap ride home.



Check out all of our services on-line at www.su.ualberta.ca/info



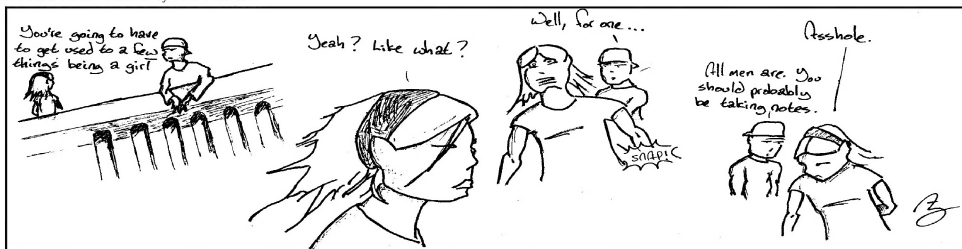
LOGIC PUZZLE by Scott C. Bourgeois and James Storrie



HALEY'S COMIX by Mike Robertson



TRANSGENDER TROUBLE by Marie-Annick Jean



MICH MICH by Shaun Lyons



MOSHPIIT HEROES by Allison & Amber Chipman



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